The TV-TS TAPESTRY

the journal for persons interested in crossdressing & transsexualism

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Niela Miller, Roger Peo, PhD

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by Merissa Sherrill Lynn

WOMEN MARRIED TO TRANSVESTITES, PROBLEMS AND ADJUSTMENTS

THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PASTORAL RESPONSES REGARDING GENDER DYSPHORIA

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ISSUE 51

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EDITORIAL

"THE DREAMS WE HAVE"
by
Merissa Sherrill Lynn

(This speech is a compilation of the prepared text and the actual speech delivered by Merissa Sherrill Lynn at the 'Coming Together - Working Together 1988' Convention, Ramada O'Hare, Chicago, February 25, 1988.)

(Introductory speeches were made by Sheila Kirk and Dr. Virginia Prince.)

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

Sheila and Virginia, thank you for your kind words.

I would like to start this speech with a quote from Ariadne Kane... "As unaccustomed as I am to public speaking..." except in my case it's true. Thank you Sheila and Virginia for your kind words. I just wish you had a lot more of them. I was counting on Virginia to be good for at least another half hour, then it would be too late for me to speak and I would be off the hook.

I had a prepared speech, and this is it (holding up a crossed-out, marked up, footnoted, and generally edited beyond recognition piece of work). As you can see, I didn't like what I was going to say. So, with your permission, I'll wing it.

This speech is about dreams. This convention is the product of a dream, and you and I are all dreamers. If we weren't, we wouldn't be here. Here we are, like a family, over 100 brothers and sisters working for the sake of all ourbrothers and sisters,and for the sake of those persons dear to us... here together, working together for the benefit of all.

As I said, this speech is about dreams. Not yours. Your dreams are your own and for you to share. This is about mine.

Most of you know something of my history, and I'm sure many of you can identify with it. I've been crossdressing all my life, and was perfectly happy for 13 years. Then I got caught and was beaten, then spent the next 20 years being absolutely miserable. Then I met somebody who said, "You are what you are, and that's OK!" Now I'm back to being happy again. But my dreams,the ones that created the Tiffany Club, the Tapestry, and this convention, began in the middle of my 'absolutely miserable' period.

Back then I was a philosophy student in college. I chose philosophy because I wanted to make some sense out of my life. I was looking for meaning,for purpose, a reason for being. Philosophy could help me. It wasn't going to teach me how to make a living, but I didn't want to know how to make a living... I wanted to know how to live.

What was I? I was a person who was more of a woman than a man, aching with jealousy

for every female I saw. Yet, at the same time I was trying to be the man everyone else expected me to be. I was afraid, unhappy, and very alone. What did I want? I wanted happiness, and peace of mind. I wanted to be in harmony with myself and my community. I wanted a reason for being. That became my dream... happiness, peace, harmony, and purpose.

One thing was certain. Playing social charades pretending to be someone I wasn't, joining the rat race to scratch out a living, then dying without ever realizing my dreams was not a possible alternative. The thought of going out into the great bloodthirsty dog-eat-dog world to make a living while pretending to be like everyone else was a terrifying thought. It made me feel like a traitor to my own soul.

How could I avoid selling out to society and still realize my dreams? I did what most people would do when faced with a tough question. I ran away from it.

Many of you know I am from New Hampshire. I love my state, especially when you get north of suburban Massachusetts. It's full of land that goes up, air you can breath, water you can drink, and laid back people. It's a beautiful state, filled with wilderness and places to hide. My favorite place to hide was the Pemigewasset Wilderness, a vast valley deep in the heart of the White Mountains. Whenever I wanted to be free from fear or avoid tough decisions, that's where I went.

One day I was hiking through the Pemi. It was late Spring, and the day was clear and warm. The breeze was gentle, the birds were awake and singing, and the trees alive and fresh. Other than the birds and rustling leaves, the only sounds were the thunder of the river swollen with melted snow, and my own footsteps. I had hiked about 12 miles along the river towards Zealand Falls, when a ladyslipper caught my eye. It was a delicate touch of pink balanced precariously on the bank of the river and surrounded by gnarled trees and weathered rocks. In the background were the rolling mountains still capped with snow. Except for the ladyslipper, the view was a scene from "man's country", rugged and serene. I spent half the day looking at that flower and its surroundings.

A lot of things became clear to me. The first thing that became clear was that I was spending my life trying to be like the trees and the rocks, but what I really wanted to be was that flower. I was not being honest with my own nature. If I was going to achieve happiness and peace, I had to be true to myself. Another thing that became clear was the wilderness was non-judgmental. It didn't place any qualifications on that flower, and it didn't place any on me. It didn't care what sex I was, or if I was masculine or feminine. It was a place where I could be myself without fear. Another thing that became clear was the wilderness was awash with ruggedness, but that beautiful little flower was at home and in harmony with its surroundings. If that flower could exist in harmony with its surroundings, then so could I. But the most important thing that became clear was that in nature, masculinity and femininity are in harmony, and harmony was the natural order of things.

I had been spending my life denying my own femininity, but my femininity was fundamental to my character, the best part of me. The wilderness had just given me a way to be according to my own nature, without recrimination or apology, at peace and in harmony with myself and the world.

It was exciting. My impossible dream was now possible. It was possible for me to be happy and be at peace and in harmony with myself and my surroundings. It was as though I had some special wisdom, and developed a deep desire to share that wisdom with others. With that desire came the final part of my dream -- a reason for being.

I began to see myself as a teacher, and see my life in terms of making a contribution. So, I tried my hand at teaching. It didn't take long for that

idea to find its way to the local treatment plant. Teaching what somebody else wanted me to teach to a bunch of kiddies who didn't want to learn it was not my idea of a satisfying career. I felt like an emissions control officer on the rear end of a horse. So, I ran away again, back to the mountains.

Remember, up to that time I wasn't yet ready to admit to the world who and what I was. Also, the mountains had always been my escape, my home. It was natural for me to return home. I still wanted to teach the lessons of the wilderness, and the mountains seemed to be the best place for it, so I taught skiing in the winter, and was a ranger and guide in the summer.

I was a very good ski instructor, not a great skier, but a good teacher. That's because I taught more than how to ski. I helped people catch themselves smiling without thinking about it... happiness for its own sake. I helped people appreciate the delicate alpine frost feathers glistening in the sun, and to feel the poetry of their own movement as they skied. I taught happiness... peace... and harmony!

As many of you know, I met a lady who brought me out of the closet and put my life in order. I met her in the Fall of 1974, and by the time of her death in 1977 I had given new direction to my life. It became clear that me being who and what I was, I could make my greatest contribution working in the field of gender expression.

By the Fall of 1976 I was giving public lectures, had joined many organizations, was studying what worked and what didn't, and coming up with ideas on how to make things better. That winter, and the following winter, every Wednesday evening I'd go from Waterville to the Cherrystone Club in Boston. Then, I'd drive back to Waterville usually just in time for the next day's lesson. Sometimes I'd walk into Cherrystone still wearing my uniform, ski boots and all.

In September 1977 I gave a lecture for the Human Sexuality Center at the University of New Hampshire. After the lecture I was approached by a reporter for the New Hampshire Times. We worked for several hours on an article focusing on the nature of the crossdressing phenomena, how it affected the University community, and what was being done about it. The reporter was also cute, so after the interview I invited her to dinner. She did not tell me she taped our dinner conversation, and that's what went into the paper. She wrote about Sherry, who was not yet dead, my family, my place of employment, put a 'before and after' picture in the paper using legal names, and completely exposed me to the world in one fell swoop. I didn't creep out of the closet, I was pushed.

I thought that if anything was going to get me killed or fired, that article would do it. But, nothing seemed to happen. A few comments were made at the local bridge club, but they were mostly supportive. Then I went back to the mountains for another ski season, not expecting to have a job. Werner Zwahlen (pronounced Verner Svahlen) (he vas Sviss) stood at the door holding a copy of the Times. ('Oh-Oh!') As I stood there sweating bullets he held the paper up showing me the article and said, "I chust don't know vye you do zees sings... unt, I don't care! But, if it hurts Vaterwille Walley," (he had trouble with his v's and w's) "you go, ya?"

"Ya!" Well, probation was better than not

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
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serving the
Transvestite/Transsexual Community

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN
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having a job.

That winter was the most successful winter I ever had as an instructor. I had over 200 hours of requested private lessons, nearly double that of my nearest competition. The biggest surprise came to me when I learned I was successful because of who and what I was, and not in spite of it. At the end of the year my ski school gave me a scroll with a picture of a naked derriere on it and the inscription "Waterville Valley's Greatest ASSet Award." I'll treasure it forever.

As good as that winter was, it was time to go to work for the TV-TS Community. As I said earlier, working in the field of gender expression was where I personally could make my greatest contribution, and it was that contribution which would give me my reason for being.

My dream was complete. I was happy, I had achieved peace of mind, I felt in harmony with myself and my community, and my life had purpose. Now it was time to make that dream live for others.

To make that dream live, I applied the lessons of the wilderness. By December 1978 we had the Tiffany Club, a safe non-judgmental haven where people could be themselves without fear. By October, 1981 we had the Tapestry. The Tapestry was like the ladyslipper, a beacon of light and hope in a very harsh world. By July 1983 we had our own house. By August 1985 we had I.F.G.E., an organization designed to bring our community into harmony with itself and the world. Now we have this convention and all you wonderful people... and we have only just begun.

I am reminded of a song from the show 'South Pacific'. How many of you remember a character called 'Bloody Mary'? In that show she sang a delightful song called 'Happy Talk'. It was a song of hope for the happiness of her daughter, but it is also a song for us all. She sang, "You got to have a dream, for if you don't have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?"

This convention is not a dream come true, for we still have thousands of people out there who need our help. Instead, this convention is one more small step towards the realization of the real dream, and that is the health, the happiness, and the peace of mind of all.

Remember, if we can dream it, it is possible.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

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TAPESTRY MAILBAG

A MESSAGE FROM THE I.F.G.E. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dear Friends

Can we talk? Well, it's time to get down to business, and the business is MONEY!

At the I.F.G.E. Convention in Chicago there was a tremendous amount of sharing of ideas. So many of you were willing to help, giving suggestions and input, to make I.F.G.E. a working organization for our Community. However, to make I.F.G.E. work is going to take more than ideas and input... it's going to take money, and it's going to take more money than I.F.G.E. has. To bring these ideas to fruition WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

As a result of our work at the '87 and '88 Conventions we now have an office serving as our International Headquarters and information distribution center. We have dedicated I.F.G.E. staff members who are making a change in their lives by moving to Boston to help make our dream a reality. We have seven active committees (including 'Educational Resources', 'Publications', and 'Marketing'), each with financial needs.

Our primary sources of income are the Tapestry Publications and the 'Coming Together' Convention. Our Publications are financially self-supporting and will be able to carry a greater share of the financial burden... but that's in the future. We fell short of our financial objectives for the '88 Convention (we broke even, black but have no seed money for next year).

We need $3-5000.00 to do an adequate job of planning and marketing next year's Convention in San Francisco.

Our office expenses (rent, utilities, and maintenance) will be $1000-$1200.00. In addition, we need money for salaries, a new telephone system, scanner, modem, and office furniture and equipment.

Your personal monetary commitment is very badly needed. A few people have already come forward with some monetary assistance. I wish I could say that I.F.G.E. financial needs could be met by the support of just a few people, however, that is very unrealistic. Be your contribution $1 or $10,000, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

I.F.G.E.'s success will be made possible because of your dedication and support. You can mirror your love for our Community through your financial contribution, reflecting your values into the lives of others. Please do your part by making a TAX DEDUCTIBLE gift today!

Thank you for your support.

In appreciation,

Yvonne Cook, Chairman

I.F.G.E. Finance Committee

Dear Editor

It has taken me a long time to gather thecourage to reach out beyond my own small, but comfortable world. However, I feel that the time is now right. I am eager to make contact with others who may have managed to balance the masculine and the feminine in their lives.

I realize that I am and have been a TV for many years. I have been fascinated by women's clothes since I was a boy. For years I struggled to suppress that peculiar portion of my self which was fascinated with women's clothes. I

went through what I suppose are normal (for transvestites, that is) cycles of acquiring and destroying whole wardrobes. With the help of an understanding and supportive wife I have finally come to recognize and appreciate the special character of my femininity. Rather than trying to suppress this side of me, I am now trying to find ways to express it.

I saw a copy of your magazine and wanted to subscribe, but my shyness overcame my need for communication. I have located a library with a reasonable collection of material on the subject which has helped me immeasurably. But, books are only useful to a point. I would like to share my experiences and hear how others have coped with their unique gender identities.

Petra D. ((W. NY)

OPEN LETTER TO:
BOXHOLDER, CURRENT RESIDENT, & OCCUPANT
FROM: Joan H. Treas. Tiffany, I.F.G.E.

As treasure of both the Tiffany Club and the International Foundation for Gender Education, I have had the opportunity of reading all the letters and applications sent to us that contain a check, money order, or cash. I've noticed one thing. Many of you will have return mail sent to 'Boxholder', 'Current Resident', or 'Occupant', Box 000, Some City. You know, 'Current' is not a very feminine name.

Now I know that our gender proclivity is on the edge of socially acceptable norms ... but come on ... how many people really care?

Does the Post Office have an APB (to borrow a phrase from Dragnet) on all people who receive a letter from 'PO Box 19 Wayland'? Not hardly! So why the paranoia? Is the postmaster in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, or where ever, going to know, or even care, if you receive a letter from PO Box 19? Are the mail sorters going to yell "Hey guys, come here. Look at this, another letter from those TVs in Boston, and its going to John Smith again." Not hardly.

Do you think we here at Tiffany or the Tapestry will be sending letters to your neighbors, or employers, telling them you like to wear women's clothing? Do you think the envelope will have "Another letter to a TV" emblazoned on it in big red letters? Look, we are here to help, not to hinder. Our files are secure. We here, at Tiffany as well as at other clubs around the country, have all gone down the same road you are now travelling. So, 'Occupant', what's the problem? Perhaps it's as Walt Kelly (author of the Pogo comic strip) said ... "We have met the enemy, and they is us." That is the problem.

So many of us seem to think that if we look into the window of a lingerie shop at the local shopping mall, everyone will just know we are looking for ourselves. Give me a break! The wife of one of our members worked in a lingerie shop before she was married. She thought it was wonderful that so many men were buying gifts for their wives. It wasn't until her involvement with the Tiffany Club that she realized who really might be wearing the negligee.

The moral of the story is ... Don't be afraid of those imaginary ghosts you have created. They are not there. With discretion and initiative you will be able to accept and understand yourself, thereby becoming a much happier person. Now I know from personal experience, you will not believe me. A few years ago, I wouldn't believe it either. It was simply because I couldn't believe it. If you stop being scared, you will progress. Yesterday, believe it or not, I tried on the skirt at the store before I bought it. If I can do it, so can you.

Let's have no more 'Resident', 'Occupant', or whoever. You must have respect for yourself as a human being, and do it with dignity and pride. You are you... whether you are wearing trousers or a skirt. You are what you want to be.

Damn the torpedoes. Full speed ahead.

Love, Joan H. (MA-0186)

Dear Editor

I've been a subscriber to your magazine for a little over a year and have been very pleased with the articles, sincerity, and feelings of self validation they convey.

The self validation for my part was a very difficult part of my life. I've always had a girl within struggling to come out and express herself. But, as a youngster whenever I expressed my desires or feminine self it was made quite clear tome that I was male and should act the same. For example, on a few occasions I was allowed to dress in some of my sister's old clothes and play house with her, which I enjoyed greatly. When I expressed my desire to do it more frequently, my parents would show their concern that this was not proper behavior for a little boy. This is where guilt would come into my mind! What's wrong with me? Why do I have these desires? Am I the wrong sex? These are questions I'm sure that many of us have all had. It's been with the help of your magazine that I've found it easier to accept myself for who I am. It's a very nice feeling knowing that you're not all alone in the world, and that many before you have had very similar thoughts and desires.

Living here in the back woods of Main has certainly been filled with its problems. The greatest of which for myself has been finding and obtaining any information on TVs, TSs, and crossdressing in general. The professional community, at least the few I have spoken to, have very little knowledge or expertise in helping those who seek information or counseling in these areas, and don't seem to know anyone else they could recommend.

My first counselor was very understanding, even though he was not very familiar with the phenomenon. He did manage to give me the old address of the Tiffany Club which fortunately for myself was forwarded to the correct address. It took him close to a year to obtain even this much. After about three visits he informed me that I appeared to have accepted myself and was functioning as a productive citizen in society, and he was unqualified to assist me further! He gave me a list of names of counsellors in the Greater Boston area but unfortunately none in Main. I live nearly five hours from Boston. Great huh? Again I find myself thankful for Tiffany, as I decided to attend Tiffany's Awards Banquet. Here I managed to make a few new friends who were very happy to give me information and to help a sister. I have been given a few new leads, and most important of all, encouragement to be all I can be!!!

As of this writing, I have spent the past month or so exploring the world of womanhood. I have spent a great deal of time dressed and doing a lot of my business such as shopping for clothes and groceries en femme. I have been 'read' on a few occasions, but have not had any difficulties otherwise. Over- all, I must remember that when in public women come in all shapes, sizes, and looks from the truly beautiful to the homely. I feel that in most circumstances I can find a spot somewhere in between. I have found a lot of personal satisfaction in having the stamina of attempting to pass in public, and perhaps finding my true self in the process.

Sara B. (ME-0862)

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Dear Editor

I have a suggestion to your readers who make their own breast forms.

Since I am a closet TV I have not had any communication with other TVs at all. Therefore, certain things (such as breast forms) have demanded some imagination. Is I understand it, the most used materials to fill out a bra are the expensive silicone forms, foam, or water filled balloons. I have found that the gel contained in plastic ice chest 'stay cold ice'(available at discount stores, etc) is ideally suited to fill plastic bags or balloons for a very realistic breast. The weight and density seems to be similar to silicone, but without the high price. After filling the plastic bags or balloons, place the breast form in a nylon footie, or foot portion of a stocking. This makes it more comfortable against the skin. A nipple can easily be formed by using epoxy past or putty to form the nipple; it sticks well to the nylon stocking. (These epoxies are sold at K-Mart, et al).

These forms feel realistic and may be the best low-cost option to fill out a bra cup.

- Janice B.

Dear Editor

This is a brief observation/complaint. My complaint concerns a tone and approach that the IFGE may be taking. I have detected an apparent disconnect between the helping professional community and the crossdressing community. I have read as much material on the subject as I can find and the only answer I can find as to why we cross-dress is that we really don't know. Thanks to you, we are coming together (organizing) as a community and now seem to be heading in the direction as eloquently outlined by Virginia Prince in her Mar '87 address. My feeling is that the helping professionals, although well meaning and possibly qualified to tell us more about ourselves, are not the ones alone who can give us the answers. The complete crossdressing community must be involved since they are the ones with the greatest motivation.

The '88 IFGE Convention agenda appears to be broken into two groups, the helping professionals and others. It is my contention that true understanding and progress in understanding this phenomenon will come from those who are most deeply involved - the crossdressers themselves. excluding crossdressers from the professional programs may be wasteful of their insights and a hindrance of true progress to understanding.

As of yet, the helping professionals have yet to really shed much light on the subject. They only seem to be able to say, "What you are doing is OK as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else, therefore, feel good about yourself and don't go on a guilt trip just because you crossdress."

This is not enough. What the movement needs is a national program oriented towards achieving meaningful insight and understanding into the phenomenon. The impetus must come from the community as a whole, not just a few. I believe that if the community as a whole reached deeply inside themselves, they could provide the insights we need to truly understand ourselves. I'm not saying that the helping professionals as a whole cannot do it, but that we could make faster progress by involving as much of the community that truly feel they can provide help and guidance in this area.

This leads me to my final point. The community now needs to establish a 'common cause' or 'national' program towards achieving a true understanding of why we do what we do. You have established the management framework for understanding ourselves. Now let's do something about it!

Judy Adams, c/o River City, P.O. Box 1305, Bellevue, NB 68005

Dear Editor

Question #3, "Will crossdressers ever stop?", is a good question. As senior member of the Tiffany Club (80+) perhaps my own

'career' will shed some light.

In a recent Tapestry, I think it was Dr. Docter who commented about 'retirement' of which he had no data. 'Retirement' is a good word because it can be voluntary or mandated. It can be happy or unhappy, depending on the state of mind.

In 1951 I was at my peak as a husband/lover, a musician, and crossdresser. Little did I imagine back then that any of it would change. It changed, but only because of time. Over the years my love for my wife has grown, but the other facets of my life have had a chance to go full cycle. I don't play guitar professionally any more because time has slowed me down. I simply cannot cut the mustard. There is a time to quit and do it voluntarily. I have served the music business well and it has in return brought me many happy hours. (However, just because I don't play anymore doesn't mean I don't still sing and enjoy music.)

As with my music, I do not dress very often now. I don't need to. Thanks to a loving and supportive wife, and the Tiffany Club and other support groups, my TV life is coming full circle. I look back with fond memories of those happy hours associating with my peers and enjoying life to its fullest. But, growing old is the same as the music business. There comes a time when I can no longer 'cut the mustard' as a TV. That is, although the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak. Transvestism is the nearest thing to the Fountain of Youth, but it will not last forever. As with music, in retrospect I feel that I have served the TV community well and have been amply rewarded. I have met and become friends with the finest people in the world.

Dee Dee W. (CT-00002

Like old soldiers, TVs just fade away. If it has been voluntary it will be a happy time, knowing that we have lived and enjoyed a gift. I know nothing of illness or hostility. This is not a Swan Song by any means. I am living out my life as it was meant to be. The old bones won't support a five inch heel anymore, so I must modify my costuming, but, I shall never be found dead in a flat heel.

Love,
Dee Dee W. (CT-0002)

LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Editor

Just yesterday I received Tapestry #50. It is without any doubt what-so-ever, the best I've ever seen. I would like to pass on a few remarks about your editorial essay on Virginia Prince, and Kyelle Blake's article, 'What's In A Name?'

Concerning your editorial essay, what a wonderful act to honor Virginia! As you, and Virginia herself, said, you're not always aware of all the people you help. Yes, even in far off South Africa, Virginia also saved my life. Even though I've never had the honor to meet her, or even correspond personally with her, her words of wisdom reached even me.

I first met her in print way back in 1968 though a book called 'A Year Among The Girls', which I came across purely by chance in a Fish & Chip shop. Though this book wasn't the greatest ever written, I'd at least found I wasn't alone and there was a name for my 'condition'.

I was engaged to my wife to be at the time and the book gave me the courage to tell her about it. Would you believe, in those unenlightened days, Sanette, though she knew even less

than I did myself about the subject, decided to give us a chance and still married me. Today, almost 20 years later we are still together and just as happy as we were then.

Yes, we married but what a lot we both had to learn about TVism. The lessons started when I came across the address of the Beaumont Society in a local magazine. I immediately took membership and through their bulletin I got to know about Chevalier Publications and Virginia Prince.

I still remember how my hands shook that day when my first book from Virginia arrived. It was 'How To Be A Woman Though Male'. I had my first lesson. As the years passed I acquired many copies of Transvestia and the lessons followed fast and furious. You may think I've had it very easy. Not so. Like yourself, Merissa, I read the words, but didn't quite take it in. I did, however, have the full understanding, cooperation and tolerance of my wife. Did I mention her infinite patience? With her helpful understanding the facts did eventually dawn upon me and I did come to terms with my own femininity. It wasn't easy, and often I had to dig out the old Transvestias to seek advice, but eventually, I got there.

At that time there wasn't a society or organization in south Africa to turn to for help and as my own understanding grew I realized the need for such an organization here. Someone had to stick their neck out and do something about it - as it turned out, it was me!

The Phoenix Society was born and has been growing steadily since. To this day I still use Virginia's gospel to help others like me to understand themselves. Oh, certainly I have developed my own views and ideas and have authored a book called 'What Is Transgenderism', but it is all based on what Virginia taught me so long ago.

Yes, I have used Virginia unashamedly to help the South African TVs. When I look back over the years and see the marriages which were failing and which are now prospering because of Virginia through me, then it was worth it. When I recall in what pathetic mental states some of the Phoenix members first saw me - fearful, agonized, stressed to the very verge of suicide - and I see the happy whole humans these very same people have become, then I know it was all worth it.

Merissa, when I read your editorial, I suddenly realized, possibly for the first time, just what Virginia has meant to me. With that realization came the shocking, shameful realization that I've never even had the decency to say "Thank you" to her. So, in the event she reads this: Dear Virginia, from all the Phoenix Society members in South Africa, but mostly from myself, a very big THANK YOU!

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'What's In A Name', by Kyelle Blake: Like the author, I've also had problems in accepting myself, until that day when I realized that maybe I should incorporate my femininity, which I couldn't denounce, into my daily life as a man. Suddenly, everything seemed to click into place and Marlene became a reality on that day. I always knew that Marlene didn't leave me when I hung her dresses in the wardrobe. She was still there, inside of me, and I couldn't deny that fact. I couldn't take my femme self off, like a dress, and pack her away.

Now I AM Marlene, irrespective of the clothes I'm wearing. I have taken her gentle personality for my own ALL the time. In fact, thinking back about it, that strange masculine macho person I used to pretend I was, was just that! It was never the real me - the real me was always feminine, since my very first recollections.

So, all I have done in effect was to stop pretending to be someone I'm not, and allowed myself to be what I've always been... a human! I am not a woman, because that I can never be, as much as I'd like to. I've just become a whole, complete human being.

Yes, that person I've become is feminine - but what is so terribly wrong with that? If more men thought and behaved in a feminine manner, the troubles of the world would be solved. That is why I've adopted the term 'transgenderist' to describe myself. There is nothing sexual about my dressing and there never was. So, I can also say WHAT IS IN A

NAME? I don't care if I'm called Marlene, Anton, man, or woman. I'm just me.

My very best regards and highest respects.

Miss Marlene Knoetze, P.O. Box 375, Parow, 7500, South Africa

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Dear Editor

The recent issue of Tapestry was marvelous. How I wish I had the courage to attend and participate in the meetings and formation of the IFGE. I am sure you know it, but there are thousands of us that want it to succeed and thank God that there are those people who have the courage, foresight, and conviction to make it happen. Fortunately, there are people like you for those of us who need cheerleaders to feel that we are not alone in this world.

Some of us who have recently discovered Tapestry, and the various groups around the country, desire reading material that would help us feel more informed and comfortable with our thoughts, desires, feelings, etc. Perhaps some space in the Tapestry could be devoted to reading material and sources that we could contact in order to obtain them.

My thoughts are with you, and may all our desires and hopes all come to fruition some day.

Helene F. (MD-1028)

Dear Editor

Since our wives play such an important part in our lives, it's a shame we don't have a 'Wife Of The Year' award. My wife is a candidate for that award.

She has come a long ways since we were first married. Her attitude was 'she married a man', and she would only allow me to enjoy my hobby at home when she wasn't there. Gradually, through a lot of caring, sharing, and good friends (mostly through the Paradise Club), and a great deal of love, she has grown to accept 'Michelle'.

Besides just putting up with Michelle, she helps me and teaches me. She has even gone so far as to have my cross- dressing friends and their wives over for dinner and a nice evening of dressing, and picture taking. She has bought Michelle presents, even when money was tight. She took the future bride of a cross-dresser friend, and went to extremes to help her understand.

So, if there were such an award, my vote would go to my wife. She's a WINNER!

- Michelle M. (OH-0954)

LETTER FROM RENAISSANCE

Dear Friends,

How often has it happened that someone comes to you for help and you just don't have the right information to provide assistance? Those of us who formed Renaissance know that feeling all too well! So, we are letting our existence be known to counselling professionals throughout the Delaware Valley.

What is Renaissance? Renaissance is a non-profit, non- sexual,social organization of individuals who share the desire and need to crossdress. It is a means of meeting others who know and understand how it feels to be a crossdresser. It is a group that accepts, without judgment, and helps the individual to grow at their own pace. Renaissance is also a source of support, information and help, both for crossdressers and for their Significant Others.

You may ask why we created Renaissance. Those of us on the Steering Committee feel that there is a need for a crossdressers' support group in this area. We, each of us, knew other transvestites or transsexuals that had not yet fully accepted themselves, and we remembered what it was like for us, feeling alone in the world. If there had only been a person or group to turn to that would understand! We have, each by a different path, come to terms with our behavior and sought each other out to share experiences and friendship. It is now our desire to share those experiences and the friendship with others who need an understanding heart.

It is also our desire to educate the profes-

sional counselling community about crossdressing and the general condition known as 'Gender Dysphoria'. Too often the counselor/therapist has no firsthand experience with this phenomena. Therefore, Renaissance members are available to meet with counselling professionals in the hope that they will come to better understand our behavior.

Please feel free to contact us, and by all means, refer your friends who may be in need of our support!

- JoAnn Roberts, c/o Renaissance, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Editor,

"Other Old Time Religions" by Nancy A. (Tapestry #50) struck a chord. She mentions the 'Mahus' of Tahiti, of men who dress as women. However, she missed the 'Fafafinees' of nearby American Samoa. On that island, if a family (which is usually numerous) decides that it doesn't have enough females to do housework or other chores, a young male child is chosen by the parents, and given female clothing, makeup, and instructed in the female traits. He/she then remains that way for his/her life. Also, the 'fafafinees' may work at outside jobs such as hotel maids or waitresses, etc.

On a personal note, one of the island's hotels gave a halloween costume party. Being an isolated island, guests were expected to improvise. I went as an angel in a white robe, sandles, tinsel halo, etc. Immediately upon entering the party room, the bartender, a huge fafafinee, (most Samoan males are over 200 lbs) spied me. Never having seen a 'palang' (caucasian) dressed like I was, he/she came over and embraced me, nearly crushing me in his/her delight. To some cultural anthropologist the above situation would be quite interesting, especially since on cosmetics were used other than gold glitter in the hair and robe to simulate stardust, and my appearance was in no way feminine, only androgynous (a word totally unknown to me at the time).

It's one thing to read about far off places, and strange customs, and another to be there and embraced by them.

- Rhonda S. (MA-0317)

(The following was a Christmas letter sent by Kimberly Ann N. of Sunnyvale, CA. Although she did not mean this letter for a wide audience, what she said is beautiful, relevant, and a clear illustration of what support groups can do for people. Forgive me Kimberly for publishing your letter, but your experience and your thoughts need to be shared. - MSL)

To All My New Friends,

Thanks to everybody for making this year the best of my life. Your acceptance, encouragement, and friendship has meant more to me than I can ever describe or repay.

With your support I have come from a lonely closet to a full and rich life. It started with an Rainbow Gender Alliance meeting in early February. Before that meeting I spent sleepless nights like a child in nervous anticipation, pouring over GenderNet printouts. At the last minute I purchased a purse, spent an entire day preparing my female illusion, and arrived at the church, filled with trepidation.

Thus started a whole new life, full of marvelous new friends and experiences. Since that first meeting I danced at the Savoy, partied at the Chez, the Bay Brick, Amelia's, Teddy Bear's, the Trocadero, the Black Rose, and El Picante. I met the heavyweights at Pajaro Dunes and discovered the richness and breadth of the gender community; and the reality of the woman in me. It was a year full of adventure as a new woman, a budding young teenager, began to find herself. While wearing a floor length gown, on display, I became your Prom Queen. I love you all dearly.

A man bought me drinks on top of the Hyatt Regency... partied all night and played black jack in Reno. Being a lady escorted to dinner... wine tasting, picnicking, and shopping...ah yes, shopping! Let loose in the candy stores, free to sample all the forbidden fruit, try on the clothes, browse through the cosmetics, jewelry, lingerie and shoes; sending

salesmen back for pair after pair. What fun! Giddy, and high as a kite.

While on that extended high, having given myself free reign to play, another persona began to emerge, one that had been buried under mountains of male cover. Forced to be a loner as a man, as a woman with nothing left to hide I found it easy to be outgoing and friendly. I found that I really like being with people; caring for them, enjoying and learning from them. I very much liked being the woman I was becoming.

This adventure led to enormous personal growth and a rather unexpected change. While I found I could accomplish my life-long fantasy of living as a woman, the process unleashed what I have always suppressed, spilling it over into my male, and turning him around completely. Now I am content with my outgoing self regardless of which gender I choose to assume. But, no permanent choice is needed. It will work itself out in good time, or not at all. From here on I will enjoy the adventure of further discover and growth, living happily in the now. This new found, fun life is only possible because you are there.

Thank you!

- Love,

Kimberly N. (CA-1373)

Dear Editor,

Considering the problems of interacting with society
these days, it is safe to say that day-dreaming is one of the best tools a crossdresser has to keep herself almost happy and reasonably sane. A person spends one third of their life asleep. It would be ideal if our dreams while sleeping enhanced our fantasies as well as our day-dreams do.

I don't know about others, but in my 67 years I may have had one or two dreams that involved dressing. With the idea of having more TV dreams so as to utilize that lost time to better advantage, I have done a little research into the meaning of dreams.

That's the meaning of dreams, not the meaning of A dream; why we dream and why we dream what we do, and how we can train ourselves to dream at night what we dream while awake. Fundamentally it doesn't look to be too successful to 'create' our own dreams.

There are many many viewpoints on why we dream and explanations for what we dream. I think most of the reasons for dreaming come while one is in the throes of a nightmare. The one that seems most likely is as dream is an attempt to solve a problem that didn't get solved during the day. It's just that to the unconscious mind all things are equal, so falling down a cliff or running in place to get away from someone are perfectly logical.

If our dreams are an attempt to solve problems, and crossdressing is a pleasure, not a problem, then our TVism would not be appropriate in a dream.

On the other hand, since books, movies, etc. seem to influence some persons to dream of the events depicted, it might be possible to read a really good book on crossdressing with which one can closely identify, and then immediately go to sleep. It would be interesting to take a survey of those who dream about being crossdressed either as a solution to a problem or by mentally conditioning themselves while awake. Maybe we can open up a whole new fantasy line.

- Jenny Raye (CA-1232)

IFGE, ARE YOU LISTENING?

Did you hear the one about the house with a TV in every room?

Television is helping us. The number of television guest shows that provide coverage of Transvestic/transsexual reality exceeds the number of pieces in a press-on nail kit. Tough we oft-times cringe at the coverage, it does provide, for many, the very first indication that others exist.

Then what? Now that one knows that others exist, it is important to locate them. But, there are problems in making contact; a local organization that is visible enough to be found

may provide more visibility than the searching TV/TS wants. Like a 'B' movie plot, they are afraid of what they might find. Perhaps we need a procedure that would allow local organizations to advertise their contact address in another city. For example, Boulton & Park could advertise in the Dallas Times-Herald, and Dallas' DFW New Missies (Delta Omega) could advertise in the Express-News.

Cost efficient advertising is a science. Those responding would receive general information and at some point be given an opportunity to contact the group in their own city.

There are several problems with this: who pays for the material and postage? What expert decides what should be sent? What guidelines will determine which local group gets the referral - or if it is even a valid request? What are the responsibilities of the local group in following up on the referrals???

It's hard for local groups like ours to do things like this; no matter how big the 'board' or 'committee' it seems that one person is doing the work, at home, at night, at the expense of doing other things.

This is a valid topic for IFGE consideration. Some of us have been thinking of this for years. The difference, I think, is that now we have the maturity and organizational structure to make it work. Perhaps a pilot program should be set up between two groups in different areas. However, if the effort were to be started and not finished, perhaps it would be better not to start it.

Mary F. Williams (TX-1432)

Dear Editor,

I often dream... simple, pure, natural dreams, dreams of novels - complete in their plots, meticulously detailing their characters so that in the end, the character is whole... dreams of fragile cobwebs, wet with the morning dew. The dew drops, clinging to the thin strings of their existence, refuse to fall. But, eventually they evaporate into the mid-morning sun. In my dreams heaven, the clouds, the space, floating, I am free from the trenches below me. I fly - soaring above the battle raging below.

Why do we dream? Perhaps we dream only for the sake of dreaming - or is there some special hidden meaning? Who knows. All I know is that as I dream I am myself. I can be a complete woman. I can be pampered, admired and love. I can be tender, gentle, graceful. I can be pretty, wear all those silky fineries that make every nerve ending shiver as if a cool breeze skipped across my ankles. These are feelings that I must repress, keeping them buried within my heart. You see, I am married to a wonderful woman who would not, could not understand.

To her my desires are unnatural, purely hedonistic jaunts into a bizarre world - a twisted world that she could never understand.

So, for now and ever I must live my life in secret -dressing only when I am alone and free of unexpected interruption. Frustration surrounds me like a cloud. I could be completely passable if only I could shave my body hair. Alas, it will never be. Only now have I built enough courage to write to you. I've even advertised in various publications for other 'gals' like me, who want to discuss their feelings, their thoughts ... their dreams. I want desperately to step out, but my love for my wife holds me prisoner, and I am caught in the web of dreams I have created.

After reading your publication I feel that if any one or thing can help me to cope with this barrage, it is Tapestry, and those who read it. You have helped me understand why I dream. And, after all, understanding is the first rung on the ascent to heaven.

- Justine D.

SPECIAL FEATURE

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS COMMONLY USED IN THE TRANSVESTITE - TRANSSEXUAL COMMUNITY

Compiled by Merissa Sherrill Lynn
for the International Foundation for Gender Education's
Educational Resources Committee.

I INTRODUCTION

This is not a directory of universally accepted definitions for terms. We have years of input and evaluation and re-evaluation and compromise before we can produce such a directory. Instead, treat this directory as 'food for thought', a tool to help you understand how the terms are most commonly used, how they interface, and to develop your own 'meaning' for them.

I have divided the terms into two catagories, 'Influential Terms' and 'Primary Terms'. The primary terms are the traditional ones ('transvestite', 'transsexual', etc.). The influential terms are terms that are commonly used in the TV/TS Community, and affect our understanding of the primary terms.

Terms mean different things to different people. Since I cannot give you solid authoritative definitions (which I'm not qualified to do), I'll try to give you flexible subjective definitions (personal opinions), to help you understand what you mean when you use a term, and to be able to communicate that meaning to others. It is also to help you understand others. In short, this directory is more about communications than definitions.

I hope you find it useful.

- Merissa Sherrill Lynn

II INFLUENTIAL TERMS

TERM / CATEGORY:

Even though 'term' and 'category' mean pretty much the same thing, I'm making a distinction because 'term' implies an idea or an expression, and tends to be more flexible, while 'category' implies a classification, and tends to be less flexible, and a little more dangerous to the person being categorized. People within the TV/TS Community are vulnerable to being categorized. Terms are used to describe phenomena, and categories are used to pigeon-hole them.

BIOLOGY / PSYCHOLOGY / SOCIOLOGY / LANGUAGE:

When it comes to understanding the nature of the transvestite-transsexual phenomena, not knowing what terms and categories belong to which science creates the most problems. Biology is a life science. 'Sex', 'male', 'female', and 'man' or 'woman' as an adult male or female are biological terms. 'Gender','masculine', 'feminine', and 'man' or 'woman' as modes of being are not biological terms. (See below.)

Psychology is a science of the mind. What do we think and feel? Why do we act the way that we do? How do we perceive ourselves as human beings? How do we deal with unwanted feelings such as guilt, lack of self-respect, anger, etc.? Most of the categories (especially those ending with -ism) used in the TV/TS Community were coined by psychologists.

Sociology is the science of human beings living together. How do we want to be perceived in public? How do we want to be treated? How do we treat others? What are our responsibilities to our community, and what are our community's responsibilities to us? How do we act in public?

Language is a collection of words created out of the imagination of man to describe his environment and to communicate. It is very important to understand the difference between words as labels describing qualities of Nature, and words as concepts and value judgments created out of the imagination of man. 'Female' is a label describing a biological fact, while 'feminine' is a value assigned to a quality such as 'gentle' or 'pink'.

To put it in terms relevant to this directory, Biology is concerned with our biological make-up, what our body is and how it works. It is concerned with physical fact. Psychology and sociology are more concerned with what we think, what we say, how we feel, how we act, how we dress, how we inter-act with others, and why. They are not concerned with physical fact. Language is concerned with the meaning of words, which as I've already stated, is vulnerable to subjective interpretation. Some words just identify physical facts, some are value judgments, and some are concepts. It is important to know which is which.

I have an opinion. (I warned you.) Biological fact is natural fact, and no amount of chemicals, or a good surgeon's knife is going to change that fact. As far as biology is concerned, a human being is little more than a biological specimen, and not a "person". Virtually everything that makes a human being a "person" is based in psychology and sociology. Psychology and sociology are artificial sciences, influenced perhaps, but not based on biological fact. They are actually more influenced by philosophy

and language than by than biology. 'Language' is an artificial creation, a collection of words created by the imagination of man to describe his environment and to communicate. 'Language' is not a natural fact. Morality and ethics are artificial creations, not natural facts. Thinking is artificial, acting is artificial, being a person is artificial. In short, biological fact is real, but when it comes to people being people, not very relevant. Psychology and sociology are artificial, but when it comes to people being people, completely relevant.)

HELPING PROFESSIONAL:

Most people think of 'helping professionals' as therapists, doctors, social workers, educators, consultants, etc. who are researchers, or have members of the TV/TS Community or their 'significant others' as clients.

We have a problem with that definition. What is 'therapy'? What does a consultant consult about? Can someone providing a support service such as a beautician, or cosmetologist, or electrologist, or a member of the world's oldest profession be called a helping professional? Can anyone who professionally services the TV/TS Community in any way be called a 'helping professional'? My feeling is, "Yes they can!" It is then up to us to categorize.

SEX / GENDER:

One of the greatest sources of confusion is not understanding the difference between 'sex' and 'gender'.

'Sex' is a biological term dividing a species into either male or female, usually based on sex chromosomes (XX = female, XY = male, XXY =whatever). 'Sexual gratification' is also a biological term. Sex is sex; a biological fact, or a physical act. 'Sex' says nothing about the person other than describing a person's chromosomes and biological function (gestation, lactation, menstruation, impregnation, XX vs XY, whether we stand or sit when we pee, etc). 'Sexual gratification' says nothing about how one achieves sexual gratification, and God knows, there are aloe of ways to achieve it.

'Gender' is much more complicated. Originally 'gender' was a grammar tool, a classification by which to give the proper inflection to words (masculine, feminine, neuter). 'Gender' has now taken on a much broader meaning. It has been taken out of the grammar context, and applied to life itself. Now 'gender' is to 'masculine' and 'feminine' what 'sex' is to 'male' and 'female'. 'Gender' is a bundle of value judgments (this is masculine - that is feminine).

SEXUAL FUNCTION / GENDER ROLE:

Another problem area is confusing one's sex with one's role in life. 'Sex' is a matter of biological fact. A person is born male or female. 'Role' is, as the dictionary puts it, the character an actor plays in a performance. In life you are the actor, and the character you play in society is your 'role'. That 'character' you play may be, and frequently is, severely limiting, or fundamentally incompatible with your identity as a person. If so, we have a problem, but it is a gender problem, not a sex problem.

Sexual function is all those biological things that go along with being male or female, and is never a 'role'. On the other hand, gender role is a mode of being, a way to be, how we express ourselves as people, how we act, how we dress, how we feel, how we think, etc. Unfortunately, we tend to assign gender roles according to sex (who gets the blue blanket, who gets the pink, act like a man, look like

a woman,etc.), and we all know that those assigned roles are not necessarily compatible with our preferred roles.

SEXUAL IDENTITY /
GENDER IDENTITY / GENDER EXPRESSION:

Sexual identity is whether or not a person perceives him/herself to be male or female (see 'male' and 'female'). The problem arises when a male perceives himself to be female, and vise versa. What sex am I? You are and always will be the sex with which you were born. Can I change my sex? No! The best you can hope for is through chemistry and surgery you can function as the opposite sex, and for legal and practical purposes, that's good enough. (see 'sexual dysphoria')

Gender identity is whether or not a person perceives him/herself to be a man or woman (see 'man' and 'woman'). The problem arises when a male perceives himself to be a woman, and vise versa. Notice I said man or woman, and not male or female. The difference is important. Male and female are biological terms, while man and woman as they are used here are modes of being, ways to be, which are based on psychology and sociology rather than biology. (see 'gender dysphoria')

Sexual identity is a 'transsexual' issue and may involve sexual re-assignment surgery, but may not involve cross-dressing. Gender identity is a 'transgender' issue and does not involve surgery, but almost always involves cross-dressing.

Gender expression is the term nearest and dearest to the hearts of most cross-dressers. In the TV/TS Community gender expression is males expressing their femininity and females expressing their masculinity using cross-dressing as a tool. Gender expression transcends the TV/TS Community, but that's another issue.

GENDER EUPHORIA/DYSPHORIA /
SEXUAL EUPHORIA/DYSPHORIA:

Each year these fancy terms seem to grow in popularity, especially among the helping professionals, and people who like big words. Granted, 'dysphoria' is more impressive than the word 'unhappy' or 'uncomfortable', but they basically mean the same thing. (Euphoria means 'happy', or sense of well being.) Gender dysphoria/euphoria = Unhappy/happy with one's socially and culturally assigned gender role.

Sexual dysphoria/euphoria = Unhappy/happy with one's biological make-up, or sex.

An understanding of these terms are especially important when it comes to deciding whether or not someone is a proper candidate for sexual reassignment (some people prefer 'corrective') surgery. Being unhappy with one's gender role is one thing. Being unhappy with one's sex is something completely different, and usually decides a person's identity, whether or not a person is just going to be a recreational cross-dresser, live as a transgenderist, or change sex.

MALE / FEMALE:

'Male' and 'female' are biological terms, identified by various biological criteria such as sexual function, XX or XY chromosomes, etc. (See 'Sex')

Notice I said 'male' and 'female' are defined by biological criteria, and not by any psychological or sociological criteria. Any discussion on how a male or a female is supposed to feel, or act, or dress, is simply inappropriate. (Chromosomes don't feel, act, or dress up.)

MASCULINE / FEMININE:

'Masculine' and 'feminine' are gender terms. In Nature there is no such thing as masculinity and femininity. 'Masculinity' and 'femininity' are value judgments, words used to identify and qualify qualities of Nature. In other words, what is masculine or feminine is strictly a matter of prevailing opinion, subject to change, and not a matter of biological fact.

Those qualities of Nature that we label masculine or feminine are inherent in all things, including both males and females. The tragedy is that many people cannot accept that it is natural for males to have feminine qualities, and females to have masculine qualities. It would be very unnatural if males or females didn't have these qualities, or worse, denied it.

MAN / WOMAN:

'Man' and 'woman' are defined both in biological and psycho-sociological terms.

The biological definitions are simple: 'Man' = adult male, and 'woman' = adult female. The biological definitions of 'man' or 'woman' are sexual definitions. As I mentioned earlier, these definitions may be perfectly correct, but not very relevant. They say nothing about a person's identity, how he/she feels, or his/her lifestyle.

Psycho/sociological definitions for 'man' and 'woman' are not so simple. These definitions determine a person's identity - whether or not they perceive themselves to be a man or a woman. They also define the criterion for what constitutes a man or a woman, the dress code, the gender role, the code of conduct, what a man or woman is supposed to think, and how they are supposed to feel. The problem is, nobody can agree on the definitions. 'Society' says one thing, yet each individual that makes up that society says another. Every place that a person would look to find a role model says something different - the movies, the family, religion, the community, the media, teen idols, etc.

In short, if a person is looking for an acceptable psycho/sociological definition of what a 'man' or 'woman' is, the answer is frighteningly simple - there isn't any.

Sexual definitions of what constitute a 'man' or a 'woman' are irrelevant. The only relevant definitions for 'man' and 'woman' are psycho/sociological - yet there aren't any, none that are generally accepted any way. The answer to this dilemma is, it is the responsibility of each individual to decide for themselves what constitutes a 'man' or a 'woman'.

Whether or not a person considers him or herself to be a 'man' or a 'woman' is a matter of personal identity, a matter of personal gender (not sexual) identity. The only valid judge as to whether or not an individual considers him or herself to be a 'man' or a 'woman' is that individual, and the only relevant basis upon which to make that judgment is gender, and not sex.

SEXUAL PREFERENCE:

Sexual preference is being mentioned in this article because of the prevailing public opinion that

people who cross-dress are 'gay', and the big ado made by cross-dressers who insist they aren't. Neither is the case, and the resulting problems such as fear, guilt, rejection, etc., are pointless, counter-productive, and dangerous. People have enough problems trying to cope with gender expression and identity without being handicapped by being identified with sexual categories. However, it is important to understand how sex relates to the cross-dressing/transsexual phenomenon.

It is less incorrect to think of people as just plain 'sexual'. Animals are capable of a sexual response. Human beings are animals. Being human, people are capable of abstracting or embroidering what triggers that sexual response. Human beings are capable of being sexually 'turned on' by virtually anyone, anything, anywhere, and any time. People are multisexual. It is not unnatural for a male human being to be sexually 'turned on' by seeing, touching, or wearing 'feminine' clothing, or seeing themselves wearing that clothing. All it is, is one more variation of the natural human sexual condition.

I separate just plain 'sexual' from the other 'sexuals' (heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, etc.) because "sexual' is a description of the human condition, while the other sexuals define what constitutes a sex object, fantasies, the sex act itself, or a lifestyle. With the exception of 'sexual', the sexual catagories define phenomena, not people.

There is no need in this article to define 'heterosexual', 'homosexual', or 'bisexual'. Ambisexual means bisexual, and trisexual means 'will try anything sexual'. The most practical of these terms is 'trisexual', for that only describes someone who likes engaging in sex. Sex is sex, and a person who likes sex is sexual, and all other catagories are irrelevant.

Sex plays a prominent (and in some cases a dominant) role in the cross-dressing experience. The role sex plays in the cross-dressing experience is not important. What is important is someone having a prejudice against a particular sexual category, labeling a person according to that sexual category, then inflicting their personal prejudice upon that person. Cross-dressers have a terrible tendency to do this to themselves (resulting in guilt and self-hatred), to other cross-dressers (resulting in the rejection of others, the isolation from others, and the fear and hatred of others), and make themselves vulnerable to the prejudices of others (resulting in the fear of social reprisal, and withdrawal). All anyone needs to do is understand the nature of sex, and respect other people's preferences, and these pointless never-ending tragedies would come to a halt.

TURN-ON:

A turn-on is anything that excites, or creates a state of euphoria, or ecstacy. Most people associate 'turn-on' with sex, but it can also be sensual or emotional. We all know that for most people cross-dressing is a turn-on. But what many people fail to acknowledge is that cross-dressing is not necessarily a 'sexual' turn-on.

FETISHISM:

Basically speaking, a fetish is an object or part of the body that, although not sexual itself, elicits an erotic response. Fetishism is the condition in which erotic feelings are excited by a non-sexual object. The cross-dressing world has a plethora of fetish items, and plenty of fetishists to enjoy them. (E.g., lingerie, high-heeled shoes, corsets, maids outfits, virtually anything and everything.)

Most people who cross-dress started because it was a
sexual turn-on. (Most people also deny it.) The largest group of people within the TV-TS Community

are fetishists. It has been implied by some that the mainstream cross-dresser is non-sexual. That's not true. The mainstream cross-dresser is sexual. The sexual motivation is like being in the 1st grade. That's where you start. Eventually you graduate to other rewards such as feeling happy, feeling pretty, narcissism, a sense of harmony, peace of mind, identity, escapism, the freedom to give and receive affection and love without sexual overtones, etc. The list is endless. However, the primary reward for the mainstream cross-dresser is sex. What does that say? It says most cross-dressers are still in the 1st grade.

The mainstream cross-dresser is usually very closeted, and keeps the adult bookstores and mail-order houses very happy. (The manager of Boston's Lane Bryant store told me they estimated that 30% of their business was by men for men.) Most TV/TS organizations are non-sexual. Their members are usually people who have graduated from the 1st grade. Since the 'movers and shakers' of the TV/TS Community are usually members of an organization, it can be said that the mainstream mover and shaker is non-sexual... but not completely.

Why is cross-dressing such a sexual turn-on? If you find out, let me know.

FANTASIST:

'Fantasist' is a term growing in popularity, especially among helping professionals. The term solves the age-old problem of what to call a transvestite who doesn't cross-dress. Since 'transvestite' means 'cross-dress', and cross-dressing describes the activity and not the desire or compulsion, you can't very well call them transvestites. (However, if transvestism describes the desire and not the activity, than you can call them transvestites, but may not want to.) Then you have those that enjoy the fantasy of cross-dressing or role reversal, but don't necessarily enjoy or have the desire to actually cross-dress. Then you have those who fantasize about transsexualism, but aren't transsexuals. Then you have those who can't separate fact from fantasy.

'Fantasist' is a catch-all term, like 'cross-dresser'. A cross-dresser is someone who cross-dresses for whatever reason. A fantasist is someone who 'fantasizes' about whatever, but doesn't 'do' whatever.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER (SO):

'Significant other', or 'SO', is a term growing in popularity. It identifies a person who is not a member of the TV/TS Community, but is directly affected by one who is (e.g., a wife, fiancee, or close friend).

PASSING / BEING READ:

'Passing' means being accepted by strangers as a member of the opposite sex.

'Being read' means not being accepted by strangers as a member of the opposite sex. (Beware of teen-age girls and 5-year-olds.)

NORMAL / DEVIANT:

'Normal' (norm) is a statistical term meaning 'average'. It is also a generally accepted standard or model. Cross-dressing is considered abnormal because it does not conform to that standard, but, that standard is constantly changing. Who knows, maybe someday cross-dressing will be considered

'normal'. (I hope not. Normal is boring. I like being different, and I like other people who are also different. I don't like people who think everybody should be normal. What I dislike even more are people who think normal is good and abnormal is bad. The norm is only an average, a standard, and no moral judgment is implied.)

'Deviant' is a statistical deviation from the norm. Again, no moral judgment is implied. Cross-dressing is deviant behavior because it deviates from the norm, and I'm a deviant person - and proud of it.

(As a footnote, when someone accuses Virginia Prince of being abnormal, she replies that she is statistically unusual, as were all great people in history, including Jesus Christ. Hurrah for Virginia!)

MENTAL ILLNESS:

Mental illness is being mentioned here because according to the third edition of the American Psychological Association's Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM-III) transvestism and transsexualism are still being carried as mental illnesses. The damage caused by that kind of stigma is staggering. The Gay Community was successful in having that stigma removed from homosexuality, and there is a movement afoot (albeit a small movement) to have it removed from transvestism and transsexualism.

PERSONA / ANIMA / ANIMUS:

In Jungian psychology, the theory is that the human psyche contains both masculine and feminine characteristics, and that the primordial drive of the psyche is towards wholeness. However, through the socialization process (role models, education, etc.) a person develops an identification with their sex, and represses those elements of the psyche which manifests the opposite sex. That identification with one's sex is called the 'persona'.

'Anima' is the suppressed or submerged feminine aspect of a man.

'Animus' is the suppressed or submerged masculine aspect of a woman.

I mention this because of the idea that all human beings, both male and female have inherent masculine and feminine qualities, and that the natural tendency is towards wholeness. It is an idea that has been with us at least since the Vedas, which were written over 5,000 years ago, and is a fundamental element of Eastern philosophy (Yin and Yang, and all that), and is gaining popularity with Western philosophers and psychologists. Also, the idea that human beings have a natural tendency towards wholeness is very relevant to gender expression, for a male or female to express one's femininity or masculinity through cross-dressing. You will be hearing a lot more of 'persona', 'anima', and 'animus'.

SHADOW / PROJECTION:

You will also be hearing a lot more of 'shadow', and 'projection'. The 'shadow' is like a blanket covering the anima or animus. It is a blanket made up of all the input into the psyche which was rejected by the persona. To achieve wholeness one must fight through the shadow.

'Projection' is the process by which the shadow is neutralized. Perhaps a person projects their anima/us onto a religious object like the Virgin Mary, or upon a love object, or in the case of the cross-dresser, upon him or herself.

II PRIMARY TERMS

TRANSVESTITE/TRANSSEXUAL (TV/TS) COMMUNITY:

I use 'TV/TS Community' to mean an identifiable group of people who cross-dress wholly or in part for what-ever reasons, and those persons for whom gender identity is an issue. It can also include anyone who wishes to identify with that Community. The act of 'cross-dressing' and 'gender identity' are the primary unifying factors, and services and affiliations are the secondary unifying factors. It does not exclude people on the basis of sex, sexual preference, personal identity, or extent of cross-dressing activity.

Let me stress that the above definition is my definition. There is an enormous amount of debate as to whether or not we should call it the 'TV/TS Community', and where we should draw the line as to who is a member and who is not. Here are a few of the arguments and counter-arguments:

1A.) Change the name. The word 'transvestite' has negative and clinical connotations. the word 'cross-dressing' (CD) would be much better.

1B.) Don't change the name. The word 'trans-vest' means cross-dress, and is more recognizable, so to change would unnecessarily muddy the waters.

2A.) Change the name. Since the term 'androgyne' (AN) is more closely related to androgyny than cross-dressing, the Community should be called the 'CD/TS/AN Community'.

2B.) Don't change the name. Androgynes use cross-dressing as a tool for achieving the 'harmonious whole', which makes them cross-dressers like everyone else. Again, why unnecessarily muddy the waters?

3A.) The TV-TS Community must be exclusive. Since we are trying to take ourselves seriously, and are dealing with gender identity and expression and not sex, sexually oriented organizations and fetishists should not be included.

3B.) The TV-TS Community must be inclusive. Cross-dressing is a continuous thread from fetishistic cross-dressing, to theatrical cross-dressing, to recreational cross-dressing, to transgenderism, to transsexualism. The organizations and services are so intertwined and the human overlap so great that you cannot possibly cut off one whole segment of that thread without damaging our ability to serve our community as a whole.

4A.) Commercial and professional services should be included. Since we state in our constitutions that we cater to cross-dressers and transsexuals and those persons affected by and serving them, commercial and professional services and significant others should also be included.

4B.) Commercial and professional services should be excluded. People who chose to identify with the TV/TS Community are members of that Community. Commercial and professional services and significant others do not generally identify with the Community. It is up to the individual as to whether or not they are members.

We have no 'accepted' definition for 'TV/TS Community'. We don't even have an accepted name. The term 'community' can be used to identify any special interest group (TS Community, SO Community, Watermelon-Seed-Spitting Community, you name it). We still have much work to do in defining ourselves, and our limits.

PARACULTURE:

The revolt against the word 'transvestite' has increased the popularity of the word 'paraculture'.

'Para-' means 'beside', or 'along side of', implying that 'paraculture' is another culture, parallel to or along side of culture - a culture within a culture.

Most people who use the word 'paraculture', use it to replace 'TV/TS Community'. Other people use it to describe not only the TV/TS Community, but the TV/TS Community as it spills out into society as a whole, engulfing helping professionals, commercial services, and persons directly affected by the Community.

I believe the word 'paraculture' creates more problems than it solves. Very few people know what the word is intended to mean, or how to use it. (Refer back to language and communications - know what the speaker means.) Most listeners will simply take the word out of context and make up their own definitions. The word is inevitably misunderstood or in need of additional explanation. Some people, myself included, find the word confusing and unnecessary. You may feel differently.

TRANSVESTITE (TV):

'Transvestite' (coined by Dr. Mangus Hirschfeld in 1910) is used to describe a person who wears clothing usually considered appropriate for the opposite sex. Unfortunately the word takes on a clinical guise, implying compulsive or sexual behavior, as though it were a disease or perversion. (it is neither a disease nor a perversion.) To make matters worse, most dictionaries still define transvestism as a manifestation of homosexuality. (That's wrong!!!! In fact, the ratio of heterosexuality is higher among people who cross-dress than it is among the population in general.) 'Trans-vest' means nothing more than 'cross-dress'. It is in itself an innocent term, but it is very easy to understand why so many people who cross-dress (myself included) do not want to be identified with that word. The initials 'TV' for some reason do not carry the same negative connotations the word 'transvestite' does. Many people (myself included) who absolutely abhor the word 'transvestite', have no qualms whatever with being called a 'TV', or being identified with the 'TV/TS' Community'. Also, the initials 'TV' are convenient to use, and readily identifiable.

EONISM:

Chevalier Charles D'Eon was a celebrated 18th century French transvestite. He was a spy for King Louis XV, and was hired as a 'lady in waiting' in the court of Czarina Elizabeth of Russia. He then served with distinction in the French army and was an accomplished swordsman. In 1762 he was sent on a spy mission to London where his penchant for women's clothing convinced people that he was in fact a woman. In 1777 he was legally declared a woman, and given orders by King Louis to dress only as a woman. Only after his death in 1810 did they discover that he was really a man.

Until Dr. Hirschfeld coined the term 'transvestite', 'eonism' was used to describe men who wore women's clothing. It is still popular, and the Chevalier D'Eon still remains a remarkable historical character.

CROSS-DRESSER (CD):

'Cross-dresser' is used to describe a person who wears clothing usually considered appropriate for the opposite sex. The only difference between 'cross-dresser' and 'transvestite' is that 'transvestite' implies a psychological condition (compulsion), while 'cross-dresser' implies voluntary behavior. Most people who cross-dress (myself included) would rather be identified with the word 'cross-dresser' than 'transvestite'.

"Are you a transvestite?"

"ABSOLUTELY NOT!!! I just enjoy cross-dressing."

Besides being an easy term with which to be identified, it also has the advantage of being vague. Since 'cross-dressing' is an activity, it includes everybody who cross-dresses for whatever reasons, and says nothing whatever about anybody. It's so vague and so meaningless it's perfectly useful. One can bandy the term about with absolute impunity, without hurting anyone's feelings or endangering anyone's identity.

It's a wonderful term - - so non-controversial, and so safe! It's also a little boring, but what's a little boredom compared to safety?

DRAG / DRAG QUEEN / STREET QUEEN / SHE-MALE / SPIT DRAG / FEMALE IMPERSONATOR-IMPRESSIONIST:

Rumor has it that the term 'drag' was coined by Shakespeare. In Shakespeare's day the female roles in a play were performed by men, and 'drag' was an acronym meaning DRessed As a Girl. The term was a theatrical term then, and is predominantly a theatrical term now, and implies a theatrical, showy, camp, exotic, or high glamour image.

Being 'in drag' is like being 'in costume'. It implies nothing about a person's sexual preference or inclination towards cross-dressing. (That is an important safety valve for those people who take their cross-dressing seriously, but don't want anyone to know they take their cross-dressing seriously.)

'Drag': Cross-dressing in glamourous, or campy, or exotic, or erotic attire ('high drag'), or conservatively ('low drag'). Usually drag 'is identified with 'high drag'.

'Drag queen': Usually a cross-dresser that prefers the drag image. Also, the term 'drag queen' is usually identified with the Gay Community.

'Street queen': Usually a drag queen that also hustles - a prostitute.

'She-male': Usually a gay male who lives full time as a woman; a gay transgenderist.

'Spit-drag': Usually cross-dressing as a joke, quite often a male in high drag sporting a moustache or beard.

'Female impersonator/impressionist': Usually a professional entertainer that performs 'in drag'. Impersonators are also associated with 'drag queen', so many entertainers prefer the term 'impressionist' in an attempt to disassociate themselves from the 'drag queen' image, and to add some dignity to their profession.

There was a time when 'drag' and 'cross-dressing' meant virtually the same thing. However, since most cross-dressers do not consider themselves to be in costume, are not gay, and certainly not hookers .....

TRANSGENDER (TG):

It used to be that a 'transgenderist' was a person who could express him or herself comfortably in both masculine and feminine terms. It was easier for a cross-dresser to identify with 'transgenderist' because the term did not carry the compulsive or sexual implications as did the term 'transvestite', and was far more specific than 'cross-dresser'.

Recently, however, the term 'transgenderist' has come more and more to mean a person of one sex living entirely in the gender role generally considered appropriate for the opposite sex (cross-living). Most people who consider themselves to be transgenderists do not want or need sexual re-assignment surgery, and do not identify with 'transvestite'.

Most people who once identified with 'transgenderist', but do not cross-live, now opt for 'cross-dresser', 'femmiphile', or 'androgyne'.

FEMMIPHILE (FP):

'Femmiphile' was a term coined by Dr. Virginia Prince (founder of Chevalier Publications, and the Foundation for Personality Expression [FPE] - now the Society for the Second Self [Tri-Ess]). FPE was an organization for avowed 'heterosexual' males who enjoyed 'cross-dressing'. The intention was to provide a term that fit their special category. Fem-, meaning female or feminine, was combined with -phile, meaning lover. 'Femmiphile' consequently meant 'lover of the feminine'.

Unfortunately '-phile' is a suffix used mostly in professional circles, and carries psychotic overtones. For that reason most people shied away from identifying with the term. However, the term was created for the heterosexual cross-dresser, and because of the sexual or (even worse) with the 'homosexual' implications of 'transvestite', and the unacceptable simplicity of 'cross-dresser', and with the change in the meaning of 'transgender', and the confusion of 'androgyne', the word 'femmiphile' has made a comeback.

(Needless to say though, the intellectual free spirits of the cross-dressing world are trying to come up with a better word.)

TRANSSEXUAL (TS) / NEW MAN / NEW WOMAN:

The term 'transsexual' is sometimes used to describe a person in transition - working towards sexual reassignment surgery. (Rather than 'reassignment surgery' a growing number of people prefer the term 'corrective surgery'.) 'Transsexual' is sometimes used to describe a person who has completed their surgery (although many post-operative TSs prefer 'new man' or 'new woman', or even 'man' or 'woman').

The most practical use of the term 'transsexual' is to describe someone whose 'gender' identity (their identity of themselves as a human being) fundamentally and irrevocably incompatible with their 'sex', (biological make-up) regardless of whether or not they have taken any steps towards reassignment ('reconstructive') surgery.

The basic difference between a transvestite and a transsexual is that a TV is mostly interested in gender expression, and a TS is mostly interested in gender identity. For most TVs, the clothes themselves are very important. For most TSs, clothes are a way to reinforce their identity. That is a

fundamental difference.

BI-GENDER TRANSSEXUAL:

'Bi-gender transsexual' is a term gaining popularity, especially in California. It is used to define those persons who see themselves and transsexually inclined, but still work as males, socialize as females (or vise versa), and do not plan to have sexual reassignment surgery.

The term 'bi-gender' was chosen because the individual's identity of him or herself as a person is stable (a man or a woman), but he or she lives in both gender roles. He or she also plans to continue doing so.

ANDROGYNE (AN):

'Androgyne' is the current 'in' word. The term is very difficult to understand, mostly because it is not a definition. It does not define a phenomenon. Rather, it is a state of mind, and a way to 'be' in the universe.

'Androgyne' was derived from 'andro-, meaning male, or man, and gyne-, meaning female, or woman. Philosophically, 'androgyne' found its roots in 'androgyny'. Modern androgyny is based on the ancient Far Eastern concept of the duality of the universe (Yin, Yang), with modern variations by psychologist C.G. Jung. Jung introduced the terms 'anima', which is the hidden feminine principle in men, and 'animus', which is the hidden masculine principle in women.

In the cross-dressing world 'androgyne' has come to mean using cross-dressing as a tool with which a man can express his femininity and a woman can express her masculinity. However, 'Androgyne' means a great deal more than using cross-dressing as a tool. It means harmony, rather,the sense of harmony, the harmonious balance between one's masculinity and femininity.

Yin and Yang (whose symbol is the well-known interlocking teardrops) is an ancient Chinese religious concept. 'Yin' is negative, dark, and feminine. 'Yang' is positive, bright, and masculine. (I think they had that backwards, but who am I to criticize ancient religions.) The Yin and Yang are inherent in, and influence the destinies of all things. The embodiment of the Yin and Yang was considered an ideal. With it went a sense of oneness, a sense of harmonious oneness with the universe. (Now let's see if I can say all this in plain old english.) For the cross-dresser the idea is to bring his or her 'feminine' qualities and desires into a harmonious balance with his or her 'masculine' qualities. The result is a sense of wholeness, of oneness, of being one person, of being both a man and a woman - not two separate identities, but a single identity, a single, complete, person.

That to me is a beautiful concept, and a beautiful objective. It is an ideal, but it is an ideal that everyone can achieve. Think of it -peace of mind for all cross-dressers - no searching for an evasive identity, no being lost in a categorical limbo - just being a person, being a man AND a woman in harmony with him AND herself. Beautiful!

(**** Footnote: The Outreach Institute's logo is the Yin and Yang, the interlocking teardrops. The I.F.G.E.'s logo is a masculine hand interlocked with a feminine hand holding a rose, with the caption, "Of being masculine, of being feminine, of being one with yourself and Nature". The concept of androgyny is everywhere.)

CHICAGO '88 ... WHY IT IS IMPORTANT ... ... TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US

by Bette Lee Johnson
Convention Coordinator

The International Foundation for Gender Education (I.F.G.E.) was established two years ago as an organization of organizations. The intent of its founders was not to form another 'Sorority'. Their goals were, and continue to be, the enhancement of cooperation for the common good of all, through the identity of the individual organization and its members. The intent of our founders was to bring our organizations and services together, in one place, under one roof, to meet together, to plan together, to work together, and yes, to dream together for the common goals and the common good of all of us. All too long, we have been a factious society and have let regional and ideological differences become divisive.

I.F.G.E. can not and will not supplant the intent and philosophies of local/national organizations. In fact, many of the leaders of local and national organizations are members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation and set its policies. It is the goal of the Foundation to achieve public understanding and acceptance, along with the goal of reaching out to those who do not know of us and who so desperately need us. These goals can only be reached through cooperation and working together. We accept the individual philosophy of each organization while working for the common good. I.F.G.E. is the hope for this accomplishment. Together, we can reach these goals, although the road will be rocky, the path will be steep and the journey arduous.

Bette Lee Lohnson with Mark (Food & Beverag Manager) and Tom North, (Ramada O'Hare Hotel Manager)

Chicago '87 was a beginning. It was a great beginning, and as such, a tribute to those who conceived I.F.G.E. and made a dream come true. Our Community came together, and worked together, for the common good of all. We put aside our ideological differences, our differences in philosophy, and our differences in the needs of our constituents for the common good of all. We came together, 140 of us, to meet together, to plan together, and yes, to dream together. We saw virtually every organization in North America represented. We saw a beginning, and what a beginning it was. The beautiful speech by Dr. Virginia Prince entitled "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" was a keynote to our future, and there were no dry eyes as we all stood in ovation to recognize her contributions and dedication.

Chicago '87 was an opportunity to learn, by attending and participating in the daily sessions. Many facets of our Community were discussed, including networking, forming an organization, and interpersonal relationships.

Chicago '87 was a time to be dressed en-femme day and night for five days, and to be proud of it. Our social times together were truly magnificent, and the camaraderie had to be experienced. We did not want it to ever end, and when it did, there was a sadness in the end of an incredible experience, and
yet, a gladness in what had been accomplished as a beginning, and a dream for the next convention. It was the end of the beginning, and a time to dream for Chicago '88...

...The dream of Chicago '88 is now at hand. If our Community is to grow, and to accomplish its twin goals, it can only do so with the dedicated support of all of us--each and every one of us. We can, we must continue to come together and work together. The I.F.G.E. Convention is the best thing that has happened in our Community, and needs our dedication and support.

Chicago '88 is an opportunity to be 'public'. Our Convention is held in a first-class convention hotel adjacent to O'Hare airport. The hotel staff is well aware of who we are, having hosted the '87 I.F.G.E. convention. Other meetings will be in progress at the time of our convention, and we are not isolated. The coffee shop, the gourmet restaurant, lobby bar and disco are public rooms, and while we will be in the majority in these places, there will be people there who will have their first exposure to our Community. There is benefit in such association in that others can see that we are real people, that we represent a cross-section of America and a cross-section of professions, whose only difference is in being dressed. Misconceptions tend to vanish, and this, above all, will be a help to the Community.

Chicago '88 is an opportunity to plan for the '89 Convention in San Francisco. In '89, we shall journey to the "City by the Bay". ETVC will be the host organization, and they are planning a special Convention, in a city that is acceptant of alternate life-styles.

We can only succeed if we all pull together. Our convention is not just a convention for the leaders, the shakers and movers of our world, although they will be there. This is our convention, and can only succeed if we support it by 'being there'. We can only accomplish the goals of our Community if we support our Community. One of the best ways to support is to participate in San Francisco '89. 'Being there' will be good for the Community, and will be especially good for you. The benefits are enormous to you, and to the Community.

San Francisco '89 is the opportunity so many of us need to meet again with our sisters from North America and Europe. An opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of our San Francisco sisters and brothers, and the 'City by the Bay', and its restaurants and clubs that accept us. You know something ... as we grow larger, and we become better known, our acceptance will grow, just as sure as the acorn grows into a tall oak tree that spreads its branches and provides shade and beauty for all.

Together, we can make it happen! ... See you in San Francisco!

ABSOLUTELY **EVERYTHING** YOU NEED
TO CREATE THAT FEMININE MYSTIQUE.

A Place . . .
. . . to Begin

Isn't it Wonderful . . .
. . . to be a Woman

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HORMONES

(The following article was edited from an article entitled 'Hormones And Me' by Sally Douglas, which first appeared in 'New Trenns Magazine' over 15 years ago. Sally's article still remains as one of the finest works ever done on hormones for the TV/TS. If you would like to obtain the complete article, contact: Sally Douglas, c/o Salmacis, P.O. Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97404)

HOW TO FIND A DOCTOR
by
Sally Ann Douglas

Now that you've finally made up your mind to go ahead with the bosoms, and you really believe that it would be better to be under a doctor's care during the process of development, the next problem to be solves is how to find a doctor who is knowledgeable enough to do you some good.

I would like to say, "The following list of doctors will accept transsexual patients," and then give a list, but it would seem the American Medical Association frowns on this kind of thing. (It smacks of advertising, which is unethical, so doctors request that their names be withheld.)

The standard way to obtain hormones is via references from your local gender clinic or support group, or from your therapist. If these sources are not available to you, then you are on your own.

If you live in a less densely populated area, the chances are that no doctor in your area has ever treated a transsexual before, so you will have to go prospecting. Let me assure that the process of prospecting for a doctor is not a difficult one - it just takes a little time because you may have to educate the doctor.

I would suggest you use the following method:

Go through the phone book and find a General Practitioner (GP) who lives fairly near you. Then, call his office and ask what his age is. If he is under 35, and not a Catholic, the chances are that you'll probably succeed in finding a doctor on your first contact.

If he qualifies as to age, make an appointment with him and when it is time to see him, if you have experience enough with drag so that you can pass, meet him the first time as a girl.

Once you're in his office, don't beat around the bush, just tell him straight out that you've come to him because you want to begin estrogen therapy and that you want him to prescribe Premarin for you.

If he asks why, tell him that you are not a genetic female - but, rather, a transsexual - and that your breasts are not large enough to satisfy you. If by this time he hasn't shown that he's hostile to the idea, but merely uninformed, educate him. Perhaps you could give him a copy of Dr. Benjamin's book 'The Transsexual Phenomenon'. Tell him you would like to get him up to speed on your situation, then arrange for another appointment.

Naturally, if he shows hostility, you will have to get yourself another doctor. You don't need to worry that you've given yourself away because the information he has about you is absolutely confidential and he'd be violating the AMA's code of ethics if he told anyone about you without your prior permission. You are absolutely safe in this regard.

- END -

(Edited from the 'Gender Identity Center Newsletter', published by GIC Inc., 3715 West 32nd Ave., P.O. Box 11563, Denver, CO 80211 (303) 458-5378)

HORMONES:
DREAM GOAL OR TIME BOMB?
-Anon

There are an extremely high number of people within the GIC's membership today who have begun hormone therapy. Most people are blind to the potential side effects of this activity, and many are misinformed regarding the consequences of being on hormones. Hormones are not 'happy pills', or 'breast pills'; hormones are not an innocent drug to be used within the play-fantasy world.

The following information is provided by Ayerst Laboratories, Inc., the manufacturer of Premarin: You should not take more estrogen than your doctor prescribes. It is important to take the lowest possible dose of estrogen and to take it only as long as is needed. Your doctor should re-evaluate your physical condition every six months. You may have heard that taking estrogens for long periods (years) will keep your skin soft and supple and

keep you feeling young. There is no evidence that this is so, however, and such long term treatment carries important risks. Estrogens increase the potential for cancers of the breast and/or liver, as well as gall bladder disease when taken over long periods, especially if there is a history of breast cancer within your family. Estrogens increase the risk of blood clotting in various parts of the body. This can result in a stroke if the clot is in (or moves into) the brain, or can result in a heart attack or angina (clot in a blood vessel of the heart), or a pulmonary embolus (a clot which forms in the legs or pelvis, then breaks off and travels to the lungs.) (This possibility increases with the dosage taken.) Any of these can be fatal.

There are other side affects as well. The most common is nausea, and vomiting. Another common side effect is mental depression. (This would be in addition to whatever you might now be experiencing as a result of your gender conflict.) Estrogens may cause breast tenderness, and may cause the breasts to secrete a liquid. These side effects are not dangerous, but consider the effects these might have on your normal (male) job, particularly if you carry things or move things. (When bumped, the pain of a tender breast is not unlike a poke in the testicles.) It is also possible to contact yellow jaundice, especially if you have had it in the past. Estrogens may cause excess fluid to be retained in the body. This may make some conditions worse, such as asthma, epilepsy, migraine, heart disease, or kidney disease.

Estrogens have serious risks. You must decide, with your doctor, whether the risks are acceptable to you.

In addition to the information from Ayerst, you should be aware that generic estrogens, while they may represent a savings of money, carry a special danger. Generic medications cost less because they are manufactured with much looser quality control standards. For example, the dosage tolerance for generic estrogens is +30%! This means that from day to day you could experience 60% dosage swings. Because hormones (in general) act as triggers, or as catalysts, for many important bodily functions, these swings in dosage will severely upset your body. A number of people have reported massive mood swings while on generic estrogen, leading generally downhill (worsening mental depressions). Your body cannot quickly adjust its ability to make its own hormones, in response to sudden changes in dosage, or to changes when hormones are available through your digestive or muscular system.

In other words, if you really must, use a good quality estrogen only, and use it on a regular (same time each day) basis.

In males, very large dosages of estrogens, besides generating the risks listed by Ayerst Labs, will cause atrophy of the penis. Remembering that penile skin becomes the vagina, this means that you will end up with a very shallow vagina! Is that a worthwhile trade for the possibility of all the health problems described earlier?

There seems to be a large amount of misinformation among the gender conflicted population concerning breast development. One theory is that if you stop taking hormones the breasts will go away. This is NOT true. Depending on the amount of development, breasts may reduce in size a slight amount; there are a significant number of people who have found it necessary to bind down (ace bandage?) their breasts in order to obtain employment in the male role after spending time on estrogens. This is especially bothersome in hot, and/or humid climates, and may not be practical for a given job situation.

Taking estrogens in large doses will not necessarily cause breasts to grow as large as you think you want them, and especially will not cause them to grow as quickly as you think you want them to. Breast development potential is determined by your genetics; if your mother, sister(s), or other close blood relatives are small breasted, you will likely be small breasted as well. Having well endowed blood relatives does not, however, guarantee 'adequate' breast development. In any event, genetic women's bodies develop breasts, generally, over a period of a few years. You cannot expect your body to change any quicker.

Be aware, also, of the possibility of sudden growth spurts in the size of your breasts. There are many cases of impatient people having silicon breast implants after a few months on estrogens, only to have their natural breasts suddenly develop shortly after, leaving them with overly large breasts. These in turn cause discomfort, backaches, etc., as they would for any other woman.

"But if I grow breasts, I have to live as a woman then! That would be OK!" NO, NO, NO! You may feel that you "have to live as a woman", but the world does not have to accept you as a woman just because of breast development. The world will NOT accept you as a woman based upon breast development alone.

Another bit of mis--information concerns taking estrogens to reduce or eliminate facial hair - to get rid of a beard. This is NOT true, either. After a lengthy period of time on estrogens, your body hair may become softer, and may not grow as fast, but estrogens will not affect the quantity or quality of facial hair. The only way to permanently eliminate facial hair is professional electrolysis. Estrogens can make the process of electrolysis more painful and time consuming because estrogens make your skin softer and more sensitive.

As a (genetic/born) male on estrogens, there are a number of other potential problems to consider as well. Your ability to have sex as a male will be greatly reduced,

or eliminated. This includes masturbation. If you do engage in sex, even occasionally, you will find that your penis is very tender, and that erections have become painful. The relatively sudden loss of sexual function as a male may very likely cause prostate infections with symptoms very similar to many venereal diseases (discharge, painful urination, etc.).

The loss of desire for sex, and the pain from having it, present another interesting problem. Many post-operative people report that the ability to have orgasm as a woman is directly related to whether your body remembers how to orgasm at all. It appears that having orgasms up to the time of surgery allows orgasms to continue after surgery. This situation is even more complex because telling nearly any psychiatric/psychological professional that you have sex to orgasm as a male will usually result in a loss of recommendation for sex reassignment surgery.

In addition to all of this, after a period of time on hormones, you will be permanently sterile, sexually; going off of the hormones will not restore your fertility.

You may find an interesting "Catch 22" connected with taking estrogens in that while your body becomes feminized, your desire for that effect may be severely reduced. The loss of control over your emotions, coupled with increased risk of mental depression, may leave you crying suddenly over nothing! Or worse, it may leave you suddenly crying in the middle of a meeting with your co-workers, supervisors, etc. The feminization of your features will likely leave you with a very androgynous appearance, not fitting either gender role, which is disconcerting to many other people (employers, clients, customers, etc.) and which could likely affect your ability to hold any job, especially one with any responsibility (with any reasonable paycheck).

"But I know I can stop taking hormones as easily as I started on them ..." This is not true. Your body requires hormones from some source. After it becomes conditioned to receiving the hormones of shot and/or pills, it will take some time to begin developing its own hormones again. During this period the reduction or lack of hormones necessary for functioning will be felt acutely, as depression, lethargy, and irritability. As crippling as these symptoms are, they are nothing compared to the return of male hormones to your system. With the return of testosterone, you will experience sudden intense periods of aggression, belligerence, and driven compulsions that characterize the male reality. These will be especially difficult to deal with, both for you and for the people around you, as your system has forgotten all of the control mechanisms it had to learn in adolescence. These behaviors, emotions, etc., make going off of hormones as difficult as stopping any drug. Hormones are every bit as addictive as any drug available!

You must fully recognize the addictive nature of the hormones, and the health risks associated with the use of hormones. You must then also fully recognize that continued use of the hormones will cause you to change into an androgyne, making any plans of regaining the credibility and social acceptance of a male very difficult. And finally, you must accept that the world does not have to accept you as a woman, and will not, based only on a few flimsy visual clues.

Taking estrogens, and/or any other hormone therapy is a dangerous procedure mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially. Taking estrogens without the supervision of therapists and physicians is setting a course for personal disaster. The potential for the benefits MUST be weighed against the certainty of the losses.

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SPECIAL FEATURE:

WOMEN MARRIED TO TRANSVESTITES: PROBLEMS AND ADJUSTMENTS

Thomas S. Weinberg and Vern L. Bullough
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(Presented at the 1986 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, New York, NY, August 1986.)

Introduction

In the literature on stigmatized or non-normative behavior, there are few studies concerned with how significant others in the individual's life deal with his or her identity and behavior (e.g., Sampson, et al., 1962, and Yarrow, et al., 1955, on families of mental patients; Jackson, 1954, and Wiseman, 1982, on wives of alcoholics). Although there are a number of studies of transvestites (TVs) in the professional literature, very little is known about the women who are married to these men (e.g., Peo, 1984; Prince, 1967; Wise, et al., 1981). The present study fills in gaps in our knowledge by focusing on the marital adjustment of wives of transvestites. Of particular interest are the attitudes of these women toward their husband's behavior, the stresses under which they are placed, and their fears and concerns.

Methods

A sample of 70 women was obtained through the cooperation of 4 groups, which distributed a mailed questionnaire to them. These groups were: (a) a transvestite organization [N = 48], (b) a transvestite wives' support group [N = 11], (c) an outreach organization [N = 6], and (d) a group whose members were undergoing counseling [N = 5]. There were no significant differences between the four groups, with the exception of questions specifically bearing upon their special characteristics. For example, women belonging to a support group were more likely to respond to questions about such groups.

The questionnaire included questions about the women's interaction with their husbands, the sorts of problems and concerns they had about transvestism, their knowledge of transvestism, their support of and participation in this behavior, their attitudes toward their husbands, toward transvestism, and toward their marriages. In addition to forced choice questions, several opportunities were given the wives to write short essays about their feelings and experiences.

The return rate of questionnaires for wives of men in the transvestite organization, the largest source of respondents, was over 60%. A half-dozen questionnaires were returned with notes from the men indicating that their wives were too hostile about transvestism to respond. Thus, our sample may not include a representation of the most vehemently anti-TV women.

The wives' responses were coded and a

computer data base was created. Data were examined by correlation analysis, utilizing SPSS.

Finding Out

Discovery

In general, the women learned about their husband's transvestism early in the relationship. More than one-third of the sample knew of this before marriage. Half of the wives became aware of their husband's behavior within a short time after they were married, and within the first five years of marriage, three-quarters of the women had learned of their spouse's cross- dressing. The correlation analysis indicates that the earlier in the marriage the wife learned about her husband's TV, the more positive her attitude was toward this behavior, and the happier she was in her marriage. Women who discovered their husband's cross-dressing well into the marriage typically felt betrayed. For example, a woman who had found out after more than ten years of marriage stated, "[I felt] angry, deceived, because he could not tell me about this before".

The largest proportion of wives (71%) learned of their husband's TV when their spouse told them: "As he explained, he 'enjoyed the feeling of women's clothes'". Some women indicated that they had had some inkling before they were actually told: "I had a good idea of it about one year after marriage"; "I figured it out for myself"; He started to tell me and I guessed"; "I guessed it from hints he'd given me and a transvestite magazine I found in the house"; "I brought it out in the open and he talked about it". Occasionally, the husband's revelation to his wife is sudden and spectacular: "We were planning on making love and he came out of the bathroom dressed in a bra and girdle. Having no previous hint of TV tendencies I was shocked."

Another 10% surprised their spouse while he was dressed, which precipitated a confession: "I didn't find him wearing clothes, but interrupted his starting to--I didn't see the clothes, but knew he was very upset and he then told me." Sixteen per cent of the sample found their husband's female garments: "I found lingerie in a night table drawer"; "I found women's clothes hidden"; "I didn't catch him in the act, but I found all the clues, clothes, etc." About 3% of the wives were first given literature to read by their husbands as preparation for being told.

Revelation of a husband's transvestism is not always so dramatic as the quotations above indicate. Sometimes, the husband gradually escalates his dressing behavior over a period of years:

"My husband acquired a feminine wardrobe and first went out in public about 2 years ago. This was when both he and I actually began to understand about transvestism. However, 8 years prior to this time he had begun wearing panties and nightgowns."

"Within a year or so of our marriage, my husband began telling me that he'd like to get some velvet pants and a shirt made of silky material to wear in the evenings when we were alone. That was OK with me, so he got them and wore them from time to time. I accepted it as he presented it, that it made him feel good and was pleasant for him....Gradually, over the next year or so, he expressed a desire for more and more specifically feminine clothes. Finally we, individually and together, had to deal with the fact that he is a TV as he admitted it to himself and talked to me about it."

At the time they learned about their husband's TV, almost all of the women were totally ignorant about cross-dressing. The few women who indicated that they knew something about transvestism were usually given information when their husbands told them. Thus, the most common reactions to finding out about a husband's cross-dressing were confusion, surprise, and shock. Then, they often became curious:

"Puzzles--didn't know what it meant. I thought maybe he was homosexual. I was very

inquisitive as to what it was all about; but also had a sense of fear, perhaps fear of the unknown."

"Surprised, curious, startled; interested in knowing why he was a TV."

Although a number of wives indicated that they were supportive of their husband's TV even when they first found out -- "I wondered what the big deal was. If women can wear jeans, why shouldn't men wear skirts? i.e., I was supportive and curious". -- most women had feelings of hostility and resentment. In fact, negative attitudes were mentioned three and one-half times more frequently by the wives than positive feelings:

"I was very hostile. I did not understand my macho husband wanting to do this. I also felt like I have failed in one way or the other."

"I felt like my world was coming apart. [I] felt horrified, anxious, scared, very angry."

Despite the anger and hurt experienced by many of the women, they nevertheless made a distinction between their attitudes toward their husband's cross-dressing and their feelings for him. While some women were angry with their husband and felt hurt and betrayed, more commonly the wives expressed love, sympathy and compassion for their spouse, while still being upset about his transvestism:

"I loved him. I felt bad for him -- he really couldn't help it. He didn't want this. But I married him for better or worse, taking the bitter with the better. I'm glad we stuck it out."

"[I felt] no different than before I found out about his transvestism. He was still the man I fell in love with."

"I felt bad that he had suffered alone for so long. I felt drawn to him."

Fears

The most common fear expressed by the women when they first learned of their husband's TV was that other would find out. Two-thirds of the sample had this concern. This was followed by anxiety that the husband was a homosexual (36%), that his transvestism would affect the children (36%), that she had failed as a woman (22%) or as a wife (16%), and that he might be mentally ill (18%). A few women were afraid that their husband would leave, or that his behavior would affect their relationship: "I didn't know if I could deal with it and what he expected of me." A minority of women were concerned that their husband might want a sex change; others doubted their ability to comprehend his situation. A small number of women feared that they might be "latent lesbians".

Reactions to the Husband's Transvestism

Despite the negative feelings in discovery of their husband's TV generated in many of the women, their most common reaction was to try to understand their spouses (78%). Two-thirds of the wives said that in order to better comprehend transvestism, they had attempted to get more information about it. Some husbands had a collection of transvestite literature, which they presented to their wives. Other women talked to counselors, therapists, or physicians, and looked for information in libraries and bookstores. "But, with almost no information, it was real hard."

Fourteen percent of the women said that they had rejected their husbands, and less than 9% had threatened their mates with divorce, and, in fact, even a separation caused by transvestism was rare in our sample. Only a minority (15%) asked their husbands to get psychiatric help.

Like the wives of alcoholics studied by Jackson (1954), the women in our study were often motivated to help keep their husband's deviance secret (49%). In most cases this was done passively by not discussing this behavior with anyone -- "By keeping this to ourselves"; "Not talking about it except to him"; "Say nothing to anyone, ever". A few women were

more active in their attempts to conceal their secret; they learned to "cover" for this husband and made certain that the doors were locked when he wanted to dress. They allowed this behavior only when their children were not at home, and they "learned to lie well". Some women reported screening visitors, while others "reluctantly made 'her' another world [and] went out with him". Protection of the husband sometimes extended by buying his female clothing.

At first, slightly less than half of our respondents encouraged their husband's interests. They occasionally motivated their spouses to make contact with other TVs. Their attempts to understand sometimes extended to actively helping their husband with their make-up, although often reluctantly -- "all the time hating it".

Changes Over Time

Most women in the sample have known about their husband's transvestism for some time; seventy-one percent had known about this for over 5 years (28%, 5 to 10 years; 30%, 10 to 20 years; and 13% for over 20 years). Over time, some of the fears and concerns held by these women lessen slightly. For example, although most women still fear exposure (57%), this anxiety has been reduced. Fewer women now are concerned about their children finding out (29%), and only 3% still fear that their husband is homosexual. There are still, however, a number of problems in the marriages. Most women do not support their husband's cross- dressing (55%). They are most likely to say that they tolerate this behavior (63%). A minority of wives report that they actively encourage TV (27%). When asked to summarize their overall attitude toward their husband's transvestism on a scale from 1 to 7, with 1 being the most positive and 7 the most negative evaluation, the median score was 3.85, and the mode was 4.00. Forty-one percent of the sample had positive scores (1 to 3); 34% had negative scores (5 to 7); and 24% were neutral (4) about transvestism.

While the wives initially attempted to understand and cope with their husband's TV, their sympathetic attitude did not necessarily hold over time. The longer a woman has been married, the more negative her feelings about her husband's cross- dressing. The length of time married is also correlated with when she found out, so that the longer a woman has been married, the later in the relationship she discovered her husband's TV, and, additionally, the longer she has known about her husband's cross-dressing.

Adjustments

Setting Limits

Given the stresses involved in living with a cross-dressing husband (fears of discovery, feelings of being stigmatized, etc.), few women would recommend a TV as a mate. Only 28% indicated that they would advise another woman to marry a transvestite, and 10% said that it would depend upon the man. When they are themselves in such a situation, the women cope as best they can, developing guidelines for their husband's behavior. Forty-eight percent of the sample said that they place limits upon their husband's cross-dressing, although a few women noted that this was not always successful: "But he goes ahead anyway". Other women indicated that their husband set limits on this behavior, sometimes in collaboration with them; but often by just being aware of their feelings, so that monitoring this behavior was not necessary: "[I don't limit his dressing] consciously, but he knows my fears"; "Not directly, but probably indirectly -- he'd do it more often if he could count on my okaying it". For some women, coping with their husband's TV is a matter of out-of-sight, out-of-mind. Thus, they will tolerate their spouse's behavior, so long as they do not have to witness it:

"At this point in our relationship, I do approve but as long as he doesn't dress in front of me I can survive. He is very good to me, and we can talk openly about this issue."

"Not when I'm around!"

In the vast majority of marriages the husbands do dress in front of their wives (81%). However, the women are not always happy about this. Forty percent of the wives wish their spouses would not do this: "I hate it!"; "Wish the whole thing would go away".

Another 37% claim they are indifferent to this behavior, and 19% say that they enjoy watching it: "Because it's so pleasurable for him"; "I understand his need".

Some women only forbid their husband's dressing in front of the children, while others prohibit cross-dressing during sexual intimacy.

Participation in Cross-Dressing

Sex

Having sex with one's husband while he is cross-dressed is not an uncommon situation; forty-three percent of the women reported that they had done so. Sometimes their mates were in full costume; at others, they wore only undergarments or nighties. Some wives were vehement about their refusal to have sex with a man dressed as a woman: "No! I'd feel like a lesbian!" Other women were more understanding: "Since he likes it, I do try to respond, as long as every time we make love he isn't cross- dressed". Most wives who had sex under these circumstances said that this was something that they tolerated and that it made responding difficult.

Buying Clothing and Going Out in Public

At one time or another three-quarters of the wives had bought their husbands female clothing or helped them with make-up and dressing. They did not always do this, however, because it pleased them or because they approved of their husband's transvestism. One respondent made this clear:

"...[My] husband knows I don't like the cross-dressing, but as I love him and want him to be happy, I buy items for his "femme" half, not because I'm encouraging his TVism."

Buying clothing for one's husband was positively correlated with one's overall attitude toward his TV, with whether one would recommend a TV as a spouse, and with whether one accompanied one's husband in public when he was cross-dressed.

Two-thirds of the women said that, at some time, they had gone out in public with their cross-dressed husbands. Such participation was correlated with a positive attitude toward transvestism, with a willingness to recommend a TV as a husband, and with whether one knew other women married to transvestites. The longer a couple was married, the more likely the wife was to report having gone out with him while he was dressed.

Although some women felt nervous, uncomfortable, and fearful at such times, other wives find this to be a positive experience, especially if it is confined to a safe environment such as "Fantasia Fair," or private get togethers with other TVs and their wives:

"[I] feel comfortable. [We] were in the company of other TVs and wives. Enjoyed myself."

[I feel] okay when we're with other cross-dressers; uncomfortable when we're out there alone."

A number of wives said that they were nervous about the safety of their husbands, and felt very protective of them. some women dealt with their anxieties by pretending that they were "two ladies out on the town". Several wives pointed out that they enjoyed going out with their husbands because they "look great."

As one wife put it, "He is a sexy baggage -- Beautiful!"

Marital Happiness

Despite the problems involved in living with a cross-dressing mate, and the substantial number of women who feel negatively about this, very few wives considered their marriages to be unhappy. When they were asked to rate the happiness of their marriages on a scale from 1 to 7, with 1 being the most positive and 7 the most negative evaluation, the median score was 1.96, and the mode was 2.00. Seventy-nine percent of the sample had positive scores (1 to 3); 16.5% had negative scores (5 to 7); and 4.5% were neutral (4). Marital happiness was correlated with feelings about transvestism. The happier a woman rated her marriage, the more positive her attitude was toward her husband's TV. Marital happiness was also positively related to whether a woman would recommend a transvestite as a husband to a close female friend.

Conclusions

Living in a marital situation with someone whose behavior is defined as deviant by the larger society is problematic, at best.

The women in the present study have learned to cope with cross- dressing husbands in a number of ways: by setting limits to this behavior, by attempting to ignore it, or by developing a rationale that enables them not only to tolerate transvestism but, in some cases, to ardently support it and participate in it.

One very important aid in adjusting to a TV husband, is to get involved in a TV wives support group. While we are presently still analyzing data on such groups, it is clear that women who belong to such organizations feel that they are extremely helpful. As one wife put it, "I found our group at Tiffany's to be a life-saver -- much more supportive and understanding than counseling. I can't praise the group enough." It appears that women who belong to such groups are less negative about their husband's transvestism than wives who do not have such support.

Notes

1. The percentages concerning fears add up to over 100%, since respondents were allowed to choose more than one fear. Each fear category was coded yes/no depending on whether it was chosen.

2. The percentages concerning reactions add up to over 100%, since respondents could choose more than one reaction. Some of them indicated that they had different reactions at different times.

3. The percentages concerning attitudes toward their husband's cross-dressing add up to over 100%, since they are not mutually exclusive. Respondents could choose more than one alternative. They could, for example, not support TV, but merely tolerate it, or they could both support and actively encourage it at the same time.

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- END -

SPECIAL FEATURE:

COUNSELING TECHNIQUES

IFGE Convention - March 7, 1987
Transcribed Audio Tapes

Tier 2, Tapes 1 & 2

Start Tape 1, Side 1

Dr. Roger Peo, Niela Miller - Presenters

Part 1 - Counseling in general
Part 2 - Roger's techniques
Part 3 - Niela's techniques
Part 4 - Questions

Dr. Peo -

What I often find with people who come into my office for counseling, is that often the things they are struggling with are not very clear in their own minds. the first thing I do is take a detailed medical and sexual history and ask a lot of questions. I ask about their family backgrounds and if they have been, or are seeing other professionals. I ask in great detail, questions about their sexual experiences.

Some of the clients feel I am prying into their private lives but all of this is important, even though some think it isn't very important. The first session usually last about ninety minutes.

I then try to find out why the person has come to me in the first place. A client will come in and present some problem they are having difficulty with. some typical ones are: "My wife sent me," or "I'm here because if I don't stop my crossdressing my wife will divorce me."

Another kind of problem I see comes from the self-diagnosed transsexual. They say they are TS. They know what they are and don't need or want any counseling. They want a letter from me so they can go and get hormones. This presents a different category of problem.

The first problem in dealing with the relationship issue is that it is difficult to come to any kind of conclusion without getting the other person in the relationship involved in the counseling.

The wife of one of my clients is convinced that if he puts his mind to it, he can stop his crossdressing. She sees this solely as his problem. She will not talk to him about it and will not come to see me or see another counselor. He has accepted his crossdressing but is trying to deal with the issue of what to do about his relationship with his wife.

Niela Miller, President, 'People Systems Potential'
Roger Peo, Director, 'Androgyny Unlimited'

The best I can do in this case is to get him to discuss the environment in which he finds himself and attempt to understand something about what is going on with his wife. I can take what he tells me but that is very much colored.

In the relationship issues, if the person who is coming to see me has pretty well worked through their feelings about their crossdressing,

and if the wife is unwilling to be counseled, about the best thing I can do is provide a maintenance kind of help. I can give him some mental and emotional support and help with coping mechanisms. It is often very difficult to go beyond that point.

Some counseling methods I use are educational techniques. I've learned a lot about different kinds of counseling and I'll use whatever means that seem appropriate for a given situation. I use one technique called a fantasy trip which may be considered a form of hypnosis. I'll have the client do some free form association and that allows him to examine certain issues he may not look at otherwise.

I also will have the client dialogue different aspects of his behavior. If the person is a crossdresser, I'll have the male side talk with the femme side and vice versa.

There are also more conventional techniques in getting the client to more precisely define the problem in question they are trying to solve.

I can often see five or six problems and I'll have the client focus on the ones that are most important to them. I will instigate a dialogue with the client about what it is that seems to get in the way of having a better relationship or better feelings about themselves.

Question - How do you direct them towards problems that they can't see for themselves?

Answer - I do that usually by using leading questions like, What about this? Have you thought about that? It's important to me in a therapy situation not to sit back and tell the client that I know what his problem is. I have to lead them in some way to discover that for themselves.

Question - What happens when they don't want to address a particular issue you feel might be an important one?

Answer - In that case, I will bring it up. I don't play games in that kind of situation. To me, it's more important that the client finds the root of the problem for himself. This evolves out of the discussion and part of the dialogue.

The first issue is to get the person to define what the real problem is and often times, that's very difficult. I have to work with a self-diagnosed person to explore the possibilities of a change. Out of that exploration comes a set of goals. Where do they want to go from here? I'm looking here for short term goals as well. It doesn't matter to me how someone got to be a certain way. We have to focus on the current problems.

Niela Miller -

We have three basic needs. One is to take care of ourselves. The second is to relate to others and the third is to be in tune with the world. When anyone comes into therapy, they are usually out of balance between those three needs.

As a humanistic psychologist, my interest is in the whole picture of what are all the tools that this person has. I want to bring this person into balance. I want to find out how I can help by simply being a loving and objective observer and discovering whatever it is they are putting out to me, so they can better see more options than their problems.

My practice includes about fifty percent straight people with the rest covered by TVs

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and TSs, that includes both couples and individuals. I don't make a big distinction between one kind of problem and another. I think most people do know the truth about themselves but they cover it over in their desire to adapt to the people around them, to their conditioning, community and prior belief systems. Part of the work in therapy is to unpeel the onion and see if we can get to the essential self of the person.

I do this in a number of ways. I had one client come in who was highly anxious for most of his adult life. He made the mistake of getting into the military. he discovered he couldn't stand the pressures of having to do everything nearly perfect. He had been a crossdresser from an early age and had problems as to how he could fit this into his life.

He was attracted to drag queens and TVs and had a non-sexual relationship with a woman for fifteen years that proved to be safe and comfortable. He was conflicted inside because he felt there was a lot that wasn't coming out in him. He felt he was posing in some kind of way. There was no need to be a woman but rather, there was a lot going on with him that he wasn't handling.

We looked at some of the ways he would be living if he felt free about his crossdressing. He used to write poetry and played music and he liked color but dressed drably.

We began to experiment with his starting to view some of these things in the present, just as he was. He began buying shirts that were softer in texture and color. He enrolled in a poetry class and started writing poetry again. There was still the job issue to deal with as he had not been working for a while.

This client had been a purchasing agent for a large company and there was too much pressure there for him. He is trying to find out if he can live comfortably and be comfortable with himself.

Over the past year he has blossomed out, giving himself permission with my help to do all kinds of things that were allocated at one time to the few parts of himself, but things which he found quite acceptable and enjoyable. These things were part of his essential self. He now writes some fabulous poetry and I'm encouraging him to get some of it published.

I find that TVs are very out of touch with their bodies. There is a lot of information coming through that much of their in-touchness with their bodies has been sexualized and eroticized for much of their lives.

I work with self observation of what's happening about the way you breathe that tells how excited or bored you are, or how angry you may be. I watch what you do with your muscles, how you walk and sit. All of this body language observing contains much information that can lead you to becoming more in touch with yourself.

This becomes part of the session, that we pay close attention to a lot of what is going on with the body. After a while, the person becomes much more in tune and picks up on things for himself. This of course, is the ideal.

I see the therapist as being the hidden part of the person that needs to come out. The things I am encouraging the person to do are things that are already there but that are covered over. In that sense, there is a true self there that needs encouragement in coming out in various ways.

I pay close attention to people's dreams. TVs have very particular kinds of dreams. It is a revelation to them and TSs as well that when they start keeping a journal of their dreams and learn to read or use them, that they get a tremendous amount of information that helps them deal with their conflicts, like how they are really feeling about certain things and how they order their world. Some people have a real ability to fantasize. Being a TV is synonymous to being a good fantasizer.

Since some people have difficulty in putting things into words, I use art materials and ask the person to draw me a picture of what something feels like. This process releases all that pent up energy of wanting to express themselves and being unable to do it. Once we have something concrete to look at, we can discuss it and then they have found a way to express something they couldn't before.

With a dialogue, one of the ways people tell me they
are ready for this is when they report of having internal dialogues within their heads. Part of being a good therapist is being able to recognize the signs people tell you in hidden ways what they need.

When this stage is reached, I have the person actually do the dialogue with the other part of them, whether it be their wife or boss. Then I have them switch and become the other person and see if what it was they would imagine the response to be.

If the response is negative, this is where some people cut themselves off. The don't want to deal with it. I think a major part of therapy is empowerment. They should feel they are not victims and do have some choices available to them.

Then I'll tell them to return to their own chair and play around with some different ways to handle that situation, ways that feel good to them, where their feelings of integrity are intact.

We are very careful to recognize that this is a very delicate issue for everyone and they are in a position to be blackmailed, or have some harm come to them. I take this confidence thing very seriously, even if I know they are very open people. You can never tell when someone is going to feel scared or sensitive.

Roger -

My style tends to be more intellectual and Niela's is more humanistic. At this point, we have probably given you enough information to ask questions, so why don't we turn the floor over to the audience. We would like your comments as well.

Question (Janet) - When do you think someone needs therapy and do you think everyone needs it?

Answer (Roger) - You can tell you need therapy when you are in some kind of situation you can't resolve yourself, whether it's a problem with your life or with your job.

Niela - You may also need therapy when there is no one else in your life that you can talk with. Some people do have outstanding friends who are able to not get involved in giving solutions and who are terrific listeners.

End Tape 1, Side 1
Start Tape 2, Side 2

Most people can't do that with friends or loved ones since they have too much invested in the outcome. That is why people like us exist. We can be objective in that way.

Roger - We need later to talk about when peer counseling is effective and when you should go on to someone who is more experienced.

What we are trying to do is find out what works for the individual. I had a colleague who was trained in the classical Freudian method and who had a crossdresser for a client. He was determined to have this client do things his way and when I told him it wouldn't work, we sort of went our own separate ways after that.

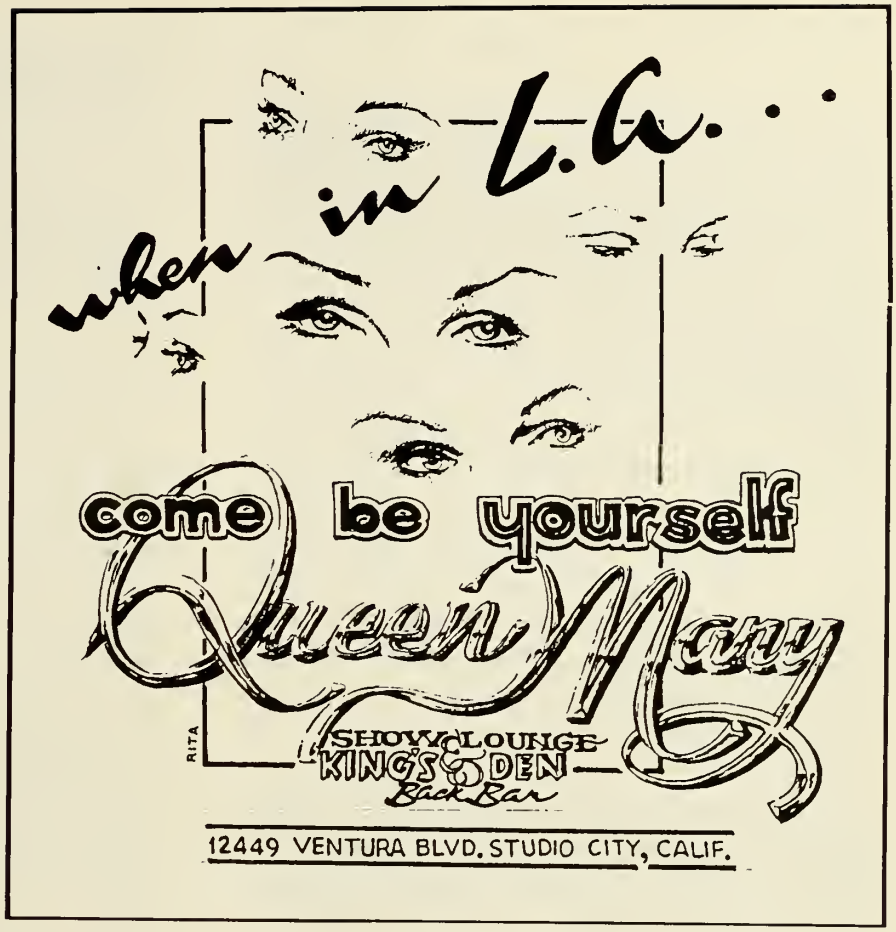
If there was only one method of therapy available to me, then I would have to force it to fit the client. If that didn't work, then we would both be in trouble. I don't have any particular way of determining that you have to come to me or not.

Niela - I will say this and it may be biased on my part. There are many people who come

to me who are not in deep trouble but want to fulfill more of their potential. There are different motivations in going to a therapist. In order to fulfill more of their potential, they need to find out more about things they weren't very much in touch with.

Usually, in the therapeutic interaction, there are surprises. There are things that come to that person because of the sessions that wouldn't have come if the person hadn't started therapy. It's sort of like they need an alter ego to help bring things out that would have normally stayed inside.

The best time to do therapy is when you don't have a huge crisis to contend with. It can be like an adventure where you travel around to different foreign countries, making one discovery after another.



Question - I have a totally negative spouse and have not been able to resolve anything in the past year. She will not go with me to my counselor or even to another one. How can you resolve something like that, or can you?

Niela - I would put her aside and ask you whether or not you derive more than fifty percent satisfaction by being with her. Is the relationship satisfying to you without resolution on this issue. If you can't be happy more than ten percent of the time and if you can't resolve this, then I suggest you look at your attachment with her and how you would resolve the question of whether you'd rather keep things going the way they are for whatever reasons you may have.

Would work more with you on getting clear on how this affects you and what you are going to do about it.

Roger - I might use different words but that's pretty much what I would do. It's impossible for me to work with the person who is not in the room. Anything you may tell me about your wife will be colored by your own perceptions and I would be getting information second hand. I couldn't work on anything specific with you and your wife. All I could do is to give you some sort of perspective as to what is going on in your wife's head and this would be based on my experience with other wives.

Crossdressing and gender issues are often very isolating in that you see your problems as insurmountable and can't really see what is going on with the person you are involved or interacting with.

Niela - I have seen enough times where wives seemed intractable and where husbands were patient and persevering because of their love, and over a time, see a little more tolerance from the wives. Sometimes I've seen a bad situation turn into something quite tolerable

for both persons.

One thing I've learned, if you give anything enough time, something will change. Things do not remain static in human life. If you are clear on what you'd like the outcome to be and are clear on what you are willing to do to have that outcome, which may mean just being loving to your wife and not pushing her on this at all, and simply going about your business as a married couple while accepting some limitations for a while, sometimes things will change.

For some people, this is impossible to do. They will say to their wives, this is so important to me that I want you to come with me to my counselor at least once. I'm asking you to do this for me as a favor, even though I know you don't want to be there.

Often times, if you are willing to make that clear a statement and take responsibility for what it is you want, the terribly reluctant person will do it, in spite of her reservations.

If the therapist does a good job and deals well with the situation at that first meeting, the wife may find it has been helpful. She will get information she didn't have before and from a person who is not feeling passionate about the outcome. Many times, after the wife agrees to come that one time, she does return for more sessions.

Question - From a standpoint of peer counseling, is there a rule of thumb when you find you can't give any more advice and tell the person to see a professional?

Roger - You have to be candid. If you clearly know that you don't know the answers and don't want to volunteer any more information, tell them it's time for them to go see a professional counselor.

One of the best things in peer counseling and this applies to the untrained person as well, is to have the ability to listen. Often times as a counselor, that is all I do, and provide some mirroring feedback. The trick here is to be genuine about what you are doing.

The change over point is when you begin to feel uncomfortable and it has gone beyond anything you know an answer for will make you feel comfortable. Then it's time to suggest a professional.

Question - What do you do when someone becomes a real pest?

Niela - You have to tell them to leave you alone. You may ask yourself what it is you are doing for them to seek you out and then modify your behavior. You will have to set some boundaries.

You can say almost anything to anyone if it comes from a loving place within you. It's when people feel put down or judged, or that you are being malicious with them, that they have a bad reaction.

If you feel you'd like to become more competent as a lay counselor, you might consider taking a counseling course. You will acquire the basic skills needed for counseling and you'll be more confident when approached by someone needing help.

Roger - If you have someone calling all the time and you make a clear statement, they may not hear you the first or second time. Be prepared to continually repeat your position until that person gets the message. I have to do this as a therapist all the time.

Question - What if someone keeps after you constantly and you feel you can't help that person anymore, and they refuse to see a professional?

Niela - You must be honest with that person and tell them you are out of you depth and are unable to help. Tell them you would be glad to accompany them to their first visit to a counselor. You could even provide them with the information of where to go.

Roger - The general guideline for whenever you feel uncomfortable is you must make it clear to the other person how you feel and then stick by your statement. It is so easy to get sucked back into it again. Be a good friend but direct that person to a professional.

Niela - The other thing I want to say about repetitive behavior patterns between people is whenever I see it happening between couples, a red flag goes up. Somebody will have to change their behavior in that situation and it isn't going to be the person in pain.

Your red flag should go up whenever you observe circular, repetitive behavior. You will need to do something different because if you keep doing the same thing, the same things will continue to happen. This is just simple logic.

Question - Could you elaborate how you would set up therapeutic goals with the client? Can they change in the course of therapy and when do you know when you've reached your objective?

Roger - Of course....

Question - Is there any legal liability when as a friend you've been dead wrong about the advice you've given?

Niela - If the other person were vindictive, they could pursue the matter.

Roger - There is no protection from that. That's why when you are in over your head and bells go off, it means a lot of things. When I have a new client, I usually ask why they are here. I want to find out what prompted them to walk through my door. As We begin to talk in the first few sessions, it will become clear to me what they are looking for in the way of help, support or guidance. The intent for me is to establish therapeutic goals early and I do share them with the client. Then we'll talk about how to get there. As we proceed along in therapy, the goals may change particularly when the client begins to feel more comfortable.

I can't say how many sessions a client will need since the problem resolving operation is dependent on the client. Some people move very quickly and others move more slowly.

The problem resolvement can be difficult when the problems presented by the client aren't really the real ones at all. They may block what is really going on with them. The crossdressing issue may be the apparent surface problem but there may be many other underlying problems affecting the visible one. These other problems will have to come out in the course of therapy and you'll end up modifying the goals along the way.

Niela - A contract is a mutual agreement between parties. When I contract with a party, in order to set the stage of our being two equal human beings, I make sure that I state my needs too. These would include that the person be on time for sessions and if they miss a session, they need to notify me 24 hours in advance.

We also focus on what it is the client wants to gain from the therapy and from me as well. I ask what kind of help would they like from me. I give them information about the range in which I work and get some information from them.

I ask how they would like to be feeling at the end of their therapy and what would they want their life to be like. What they initially present may not be actually what they need or want. As the therapy proceeds, new goals may emerge that are equally or more important than the original ones. Then, these new goals become part of the contract.

Question - what lengths of time are involved with therapy?

Niela - I've done everything from four visits to three years of therapy. I generally do not go longer than three years. I like to mobilize and empower people as soon as possible so they

are in charge of their lives. Just as some lawyers have acquired a certain kind of reputation, some therapists also have made a bad reputation. Some people see therapists as money grubbers who try to keep clients in as long as possible. Roger and I do not subscribe to that kind of behavior. It really is an individual thing and just how complex the problems and the person is.

Roger - We talked a lot of how we as therapists move in that particular environment. There is a flip side to that. If you are in a therapy situation, there is a chemistry that needs to exist between therapists and client.

End Tape 1, Side 2
Start Tape 2, Side 1

I'm sure that everyone in this room who has been in a therapy situation, has had to interact with someone where the chemistry wasn't the greatest. It didn't make any difference what you said. The other person took offense at or misread it. This is as true in a therapy situation as it is in any other kind of human situation. The other side of this is you can go into a therapy environment and do all the things Niela and I have mentioned in terms of a contract, goals and so on, and it still doesn't work.

My rule of thumb is that if you went to four sessions and felt you were going around in circles, (whether you were or not is immaterial) and you weren't getting anywhere with that person, then you don't have to come back.

The therapist and you are partners in this kind of act that's going on. For the partnership to work, both people have to work together. If that is not possible, then it's time to do something about it.

Question - Are there any rules for setting up a support group, since it is a form of peer counseling? We had some problems in my church with small support groups.

Roger - I've worked in small group setting in church groups and have had some problems in setting up group leadership. I insist on spending at least a day and a half training the leaders in small group leadership techniques, the goals of the program and just how the sessions are to be run. I go in with a structured program and that is a little different from what you mentioned, however there are different ways to teach small group leadership. The basic tricks in small group leadership are to be and not putting your own ideas out. It requires some training ahead of time. Small group leadership can be difficult as there are many concerns that aren't obvious.

Niela - One thing you can do is to have a self led group where people take turns just keeping the flow running smoothly along. You need to provide a chance for the shy people to speak and make sure those who dominate the conversation give others a chance to speak. One thing you can do is have a self-led group where people take turns keeping the flow going along. You need to provide a chance for the shy people to speak and to prevent those who dominate the conversation from doing so. It's a complex task to be a group facilitator or a group therapist. Not only do you have each person to contending with all the things going on inside of them, but you have all these different egos in the room. Each person has some idea or notion about what it is they want to see happen, and this may conflict with other people.

There are many different ways of running groups and there is no one right way. Some therapists are prophet facilitators, that is they facilitate whatever it is that arises in the session. They don't set any kind of agenda. Whoever feels like talking about something will bring it up and will get responses from the group. The facilitator generally comments on how the group is handling the situation and is not so much focusing on helping a particular person in the group with their problems. The main focus here is setting the conditions so the group can work well together in listening to each other

and being responsive as a group.

The second type is where the group leader acts as a therapist and works with a person in the group with their problems. The other people are learning from what is happening between the therapists and the person. Human problems are often more similar than they are different.

You get something out of seeing the transaction between the therapist and the person. I would also ask other people in the group how they are feeling about what's going on and what issues it raises for them. Then we talk thematically about that issue and how different people have dealt with it, and with what results and how they feel about it.

A third type of small group leadership would be an activity oriented session where I would set a theme or activity for the group and have everyone address themselves to it. The we deal with the material that comes up.

An important thing to remember is that this is a multi-level experience where a lot is going on. The dynamics of the group are happening as well as the feelings of each person. There is the relationship and there are always authority issues to work out with anyone who is in that designated role.

In my style, I attempt to empower people in the group to have them feel they are capable of helping themselves and each other. I am not the only helper there. This is especially true in a TV group where the people have had all kinds of experiences that I haven't had. They become the experts about their own experiences. What I attempt to do is control the amount of advice given.

Roger - In terms of asking questions, if you are going to a therapist for the first time and are going for a gender issue, you have every right to understand what competence that therapist has had with a particular issue. There are too many therapists who say they can handle anything that comes up in a session but who are really not that well informed about gender issues. They can give you problems.

If you find that from the first session or two, that you are doing the education of the therapist, you should perhaps take a second look at the issue.

Niela - A classically trained psychiatric person may not have as much to offer the gender community as those who have a more humanistic point of view. There needs to be more humanistic interaction in this thing. There is too much anxiety involved to promote people to see therapists who just remain an empty mirror.

Classical psychiatric help is certainly valuable for some people in some cases. One of the tragedies about the entire therapeutic business is that it is largely guesswork for the consumers. There is no place you can go or book you can read that will tell you all you need to know about the type of professional person you need to seek out based on your needs as an individual.

It's touch and go and you will have to do some exploring on your part. I agree with Roger that if you give it your best shot and go several times and ask the questions you need to ask, your gut will tell you that this does or doesn't feel right for you.

I think that in terms humanistically oriented psychologists, it is not required for them to know a great deal about this phenomenon in order to be helpful, because they are dealing with a whole person. Everything you say about yourself is going to be important to them and they are going to respond on a feeling level.

The will also admit their limitations. If anyone talks to me about wanting to go on hormones or on going through a sex change, I tell them I am not qualified to work with them on that, but there is another doctor that is qualified, and they should go see them. If what

you want is to look at your life and get your feelings clear and your relationships going better, that is where I can help. This helps them if I can be clear about what my boundaries are.

Question - Do you feel that because of the lack of knowledge by both the consumer and the therapists, that this limits the effectiveness of the professional, whether it be for the TV or TS?

Niela - That's a loaded question, but the answer is yes.

Question - What do you think that we as a community can do to increase that level of knowledge?

David - I would thing that in those areas where the groups are organized, that invitations be sent to seek out those professionals who are involved with the gender community, so those professionals would come to the gender functions to observe and mingle with us as we function outside of the therapy atmosphere.

Niela - Roger and I would do that but classically trained people would not as it is part of their bias that they keep separate the consultations from any other part of the person's life, and that is unfortunate.

For most psychologists and other helpers who don't have that particular bias, that would be an excellent way for them to increase their knowledge and education.

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This is how I have increased my own knowledge. I have many good friends in the gender community and we learn from each other. I'm willing to be open with them about what all this raises within me about my own femininity and about my attitudes towards men and women.

I didn't get off scott free and I'm sure you didn't either. You have to be willing to search yourself and be fairly open about what is going on with yourself if you get involved with this community, otherwise it's not going to work. You need certain kinds of people who are willing to do that.

Roger - I think there is another thing you can do though. Most large universities have psychology courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. With my experience in the New York area, often times people who are instructing those classes are looking for people from the various subcultures and sexual minorities to come and share with them, what is going on in that particular subculture.

One of the things the community could do is to go to these departments and tell them there are people available for these classes. The thing they have to understand is the confidentiality and anonymity of it. I try to get people involved who are geographically separated from a particular university by at least an hour's drive. When you go into one of these classes, you don't know who is going to be there. In this way, there is little chance for someone to be in the class who knows them.

Niela - I will often give talks at local mental health clinics with the psychologists who have not had much contact with the community, but who are interested and open minded.

There are a lot of humanistic psychologists who are becoming interested in this field. But I am at a loss to know where to send people who live in other parts of the country.

I don't believe that sending them to classically trained professionals will help them much.

Most of the humanistic psychologists haven't had much real exposure to the gender community so they have to be educated. Next year when we have this conference, I am hoping that we'll have a lot more of these people coming here. Then you will have a great number of more choices around the country.

When I started doing this kind of work, I knew nothing about this culture, but I had no prejudice and I was very open minded and I always have been this way about many different kinds of people. It wasn't until I had done a great deal of talking with people and had done investigations that I started seeing people individually. I feel it is life-long and I keep learning as I go along.

End Tape 2, Side 1
Start Tape 2, side 2
No data recorded.

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A paper presented at the 10th International Symposium on Gender Dysphoria, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 9-12, 1987

THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS PASTORAL RESPONSES REGARDING GENDER DYSPHORIA

The Rev. Canon Clinton. R. Jones, D.D.
Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT

At the beginning of this paper, I am convinced that I must admit that what I wish to say can be properly construed as an apologia which Webster defines as "a defense of one's opinion, position, or actions". Surely this is not to be confused with being an apology which has the overtones of being regretful or even expressing a sense of guilt, for in all honesty, none of these feelings exist. I open my remarks with this point because I began my counseling ministry with gender dysphoric persons in the mid-sixties, was one of the persons who was instrumental in the formation of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England in the early seventies and have remained with the Clinic throughout the years eventually assuming the role of Clinic Coordinator. For more than twenty years I have monitored a support group for transsexual persons who have met consistently on bi-monthly schedule.

As might be expected, such involvement was not and has not been without critics. I suspect that all gathered at this symposium will have encountered skepticism and even open criticism for being professionally involved in this work and serving this particular clientele whether as surgeons, psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists, or from other disciplines. As an ordained member of the Church, I have had, as might be expected, my intentions and efforts brought into question. Up to this point at least, I have managed to survive. And since I have had the opportunity to lecture quite extensively both within and without the Church, I hope I have been able to provide some reasonable education which I would hope has produced understanding and hopefully more tolerance and acceptance. Often, however, the questions raised have been theological and Biblical; it is because of this response that it seemed pertinent to address the issue which is the focus of this paper.

In such a distinguished assemblage as this, I suspect I do not need to explain what theology is all about; yet at the same time, it may be helpful to deal with the root meaning of the word. "Theos" is the Greek word for God...and the ending has to do with what we call logic. A simple definition is: "the study of God and God's relation to the world."

Before I proceed any further, I need to say that as I approach this subject, I well realize I am actually dealing with faith - that which a person holds to be true in his or her own conceptions of life and which may also provide that foundation on which his or her value system may rest. Please note that I said "a person", or individual. Obviously there are those for whom God is not a reality, there are many who cannot accept the God of the Hebrews - nor the God that Christians believe was in Christ (there may be well such persons present) and this of course is their

privilege, but accept it or not, a large majority of us in the helping professions, both in the United States and in many countries represented here this week, are functioning in a society which has reasonably strong roots in the Judeo-Christian heritage.

Over the years in relating to counselees and surely in the lecturing I do, basic theological/ethical questions are raised. Strangely enough, I have discovered that many persons who have considered themselves to be gender dysphoric have begun their first probing with me simply on the basis that I am ordained in the Church. One of the first things they may need to resolve in their minds is whether they should do what they want to do. They may wonder whether they are challenging God's will, and whether they might face some eventual condemnation. It has been interesting that often times counselees will be more honest with a religious counselor than with others. For instance, in my sessions with homosexuals, some of whom have been in therapy for extensive periods of time, I have discovered they may have never discussed their true feelings previously. Recently when I interviewed a person for our clinic and asked for the date of birth, I was given it, but was told not to tell others in the clinic because he had dropped off a few years! When I questioned this, the person said, "But I just couldn't lie to you!"

What theological questions are raised? For many who are gender dysphoric the question is, "If God is Creator, if this Creator, as the Bible says, created persons as male or female, what about me?" In this regard many who are religiously oriented will question what is done to help persons move from one gender identity into another. I am convinced we need to make some response. It is my belief that God is Creator; however I also feel strongly that the creation is filled with variants. These variants are in all nature: the plant world, lower animals, even, if you will in the minerals (after all, a diamond is a variant in the world of coal!) This being true, why shouldn't there be variants in the human species? There are. No two individuals are the same, there are physical differences such as hermaphrodites and those who have chromosomal anomalies. It is my opinion that we do not have the formal or final answers as to why persons are gender dysphoric, but since we seem to recognize this condition as reality, I have to believe this is an identity which may very well be of the creative system.

As one reads the Creation narrative in the book of Genesis (which I hasten to indicate I can hardly accept as literal), at the end of each Creative day, there is the phrase "God saw that it was good". Therefore, there is this basic acceptance that whatever God has created is good. Theologically speaking, Creation, of course, is not merely a one-time matter but, rather a constant, continuing process. That, then, which God still creates is good. The important point which emerges here in my mind, and this is where the pastoral response emerges, is to help those who are gender dysphoric to know that their being is good. There may be those who will disagree with me and perhaps violently, however I feel convinced that persons who are gender dysphoric do not willingly, consciously choose this identity. Again I say this from a pastoral point of view, because I feel that the long, tortuous, wrenching passage from one gender identity to another is so traumatic and can be so full of pain that I cannot see how anyone, unless they are truly masochistic, would really want to follow through. From my vantage point, I feel that the last thing such persons need to be told is that they have flaunted God's will, that they have tampered with his creation, and they may even face serious judgement because they wish to do or have done what they did.

As stated at the outset of this paper, I am dealing to some extent with the nature of God. So far the statements are made that God is Creator - that being good, that which God has created is good. Response is now needed to another question asked so often. If there is agreement to these points, then why are we just learning that there are gender dysphoric persons? I Would make three responses:

First I strongly suspect that gender dysphoric persons have existed throughout the centuries. There is adequate support in history to sustain this. A sample illustration is found in a study of the Mohave Indians who occasionally had a boy in the tribe who evidenced dominant feminine characteristics both physical and psychological. The tribe would do as much as possible to orient this boy into a masculine identity but, failing this would then organize a tribal ceremony at which he would be dressed as a woman, given a female name and then be permitted to live with women and do the work they did. He might even become a sexual partner for men in the tribe.

Second, it does seem that God is always in the process of being revealed. If one traces the development of man's understanding of God, there is movement from a primitive Jahweh who was God of the storm, the volcano, and nature to what Christians call the most significant revelation in the being of the Incarnate Son, Jesus, the Christ. God's revelation, then, is process. I will go so far as to suspect that we still don't know what yet may be revealed.

Thirdly, I think I am on sound ground when I say that God over the centuries has revealed Himself through human beings who are described in Scripture as "The Crown of Creation". Over these centuries we have been learning little by little the truth of Creation. At time the earth was thought to be flat; it may have been revealed to Galileo that it was round even though he had some difficulty convincing others that this was true. As one reads the Old Testament, it was the prophets who are identified as being the vehicles through whom God was revealed. Why can we not believe that those who were pioneers in this field of gender dysphoria were, because of the advances in medicine, surgery, and psychological evaluation, also revealing a truth which long existed? Some might be considerably distressed sensing there were those of us who feel they were fulfilling this purpose; but we who believe may have to be allowed this privilege.

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It is not my intention with this paper to discuss how various denominational or religious bodies or judicatories have reacted to this discipline. In fact it does appear that there have been very few formal pronouncements. Little has been written or published by theologians and no strong dictates pro or con seem to have been promulgated. Some significant religious bodies such as the (Roman) Catholic Theological Society of America in their study of human sexuality have made reference to transsexualism but indicate that it is too early for any significant evaluation. There have been definitive stands taken by major denominations on homosexuality with varying positions which move from total acceptance to rigid rejection, but these same bodies have not dealt openly with the issue of gender dysphoria. However, although there are few formal positions taken, there is an undercurrent of apprehension especially in the area of actual physical/surgical intervention. The bottom line seems to focus on the issue of removing healthy organs and

tissue. I am trying to avoid in this presentation the ethical/moral issues involved but instead stay in the realm of the theological.

Right or not, my conception of God is that "wholeness of person" is important. Wholeness in one sense of the word, can be thought of as integration. If the human is made as Biblical language states "in God's image" then it would seem that it was God's intention that human beings should experience wholeness, since surely the Divinity is One and is Whole. For a long time, ever since surgical procedures were possible, doctors have made decisions about hermaphroditic children and usually these decisions have involved surgery, perhaps even removal of healthy tissue. The intentions of the surgeon, in these instances, is to provide a sense of "wholeness" or "oneness" to this child. The question in my mind is simply this: Are the physical differences more valid than those which are psychological and emotional? As stated earlier, we are still dealing with mystery (as far as I see it) as to the true etiology of gender dysphoria. I suspect that there is some general agreement that there are few physical reasons involved. Experience tells us that a person who may seem to be the most masculine male may in reality be female and the most feminine female may in reality be a male. Put simply, the packaging often has little to do with the product! If our goal parallels God's goal of "wholeness" then it would seem as if we are not trespassing on God's will if we provide whatever therapies are necessary to bring completion, wholeness, oneness to a person who desperately needs it.

It is quite obvious to those gathered, I am sure, that I function out of a Christian framework. Obviously I have the highest regard for the Jewish roots and antecedents of this faith; however, I do also believe that God specifically revealed himself in Jesus of Nazareth. I also believe I can say that whether a person believes in the Incarnation or not, the evidence of a historical Jesus is basically well founded. The gospels relate many of his activities and show forth his various roles. One of these, of course, was his ministry of healing. He was hardly the first healer. All through the Old Testament and in many other religious systems there have been healers. Such being true, and if these healers are instruments of God, then it would seem that God is not happy about disease but is eager that it be replaced by health. This is why it is too difficult for me to believe that God has been the prime mover behind plagues or devastating diseases which cause pain, sorrow, and death. In this vein (as an aside), how can anyone say that AIDS is God's punishment?! If we will say God is good then how do we reconcile this to the fact that such a God would wish physical pain and emotional turmoil for anyone? In reverse, would God not want to hope for cure, for relief, for health?

Those of us who express care and concern for those who are gender dysphoric are surely fully aware of all that they bear as they undertake this trek from one gender to another. I hardly need to spell this out! Is not our purpose to dispel disease? The medical psychiatric profession was all too correct in identifying gender dysphoria as a disease - certainly such persons are "out of ease" with themselves and they need help to find their true health. If this may mean extensive counseling, infusion of hormones, and eventual surgical procedures, then I would say "So be it!" and even thank God that we now live in a world where such healing can take place.

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As I move to conclusion, there is one attribute of God which has not been touched upon although it may have been implied in many of the points made. This is the attribute of love. I well recognize that as one reads some of the passages of the Old Testament one may question whether this is true or not, but these writings have to be placed in their historic time and place. Actually, from a very early time, it became clear to Israel that God loved Israel - that they, the Jews, were chosen. However, many of the prophets tied love and righteousness together so that when there was disobedience it was necessary for punishment. The familiar phrase was "God loveth whom he chastiseth". However, as the revelation of God's nature became clearer, it also seemed to show more of God's love and far less God's wrath. The culmination came, as we Christians believe when "God so loved the world that he sent the only begotten son". Then this Jesus, exhibiting a life of love, made the final love offering by giving his life to the cross. But then He bestowed this legacy of love upon those who would be his followers and apostles to a world in desperate need of this love. This love which moves out of the fountainhead of God, infuses man so that an eminent contemporary theologian, Norman Pittinger, can state so clearly: "Man is born to be a lover'.

I would like to believe that all of us within this specific discipline, whether we be Jew or Christian or of some other world religion or are committed humanists are "born lovers" and that our task has been to bring joy out of sorrow, wholeness out of brokenness and separation, health out of sickness, and peace out of turmoil and unrest.

I think I know of no other group of persons who need to know understanding, care, concern, compassion, and above all genuine love than those who bear the pain, the discomfort, even the terror of gender dysphoria than those so afflicted. Let us continue to do our work, to provide our ministries under whatever banner we wish to fly; as for me, I will do so under the God who made me, who loves me, and who, in His mercy, will receive me.

- END -

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NEED A CHANGE?" "ONE WOMAN'S ANSWER TO LEGAL QUESTIONS"

by
JoAnn Renee Stringer

Life can be tough enough, but when nature throws a curve ball, watch out. For those of us at some mid-point in our gender transitions, the problems can become rather complex. It isn't as easy as many may think. One doesn't wake up one morning and say, "Wow, I'm going to spend the rest of my life as a woman, or a man." There are many things to consider before you begin this transition. Things to consider include the possible positive or negative reactions by your family, relatives, friends and employer. And what about the legal issues and problems such as legal records, bank accounts, educational transcripts, driver's license and credit cards? And this list goes on. There are indeed many things to cover following a change of name and status in society. What's more, there is no blueprint to follow, no "how to..." guide. Many will stumble along in that mystical land of Oz, not finding the yellow brick road. Yet somehow, many do make it through the legal maze, but not without acquring a few bruises in the process.

Here are a few hints from my personal experience that may help you get through some of the technical aspects of this major life change.

STEP 1: Name Change. This is the first element, the first building block to restructure your life. It must pre-empt all other issues since nothing else can be done until the court grants this request. This is my experience with the laws in Colorado. As the law differs from state to state, this procedure may or may not work, or some different steps may be involved.

Many people believe you need a lawyer to change your name. This may be true in some states but not in Colorado. Generally, all that is required is the filling out of the proper paperwork, providing an approved copy of your birth certificate, the payment of a small fee and an appearance in court. In my state, there are many legal documents which can be filed by citizens without
the assistance of an attorney. You probably were going to get a lawyer because you didn't know how to do it on your own, but there should be no need to pay several hundred dollars to a lawyer for filing the same paperwork you can do yourself with only a few dollars out of your pocket.

On December 24th, I appeared as JoAnn at the Denver County Courthouse. The name of the office may vary so ask the building guard, or someone else where to go to file a name change. When I finally located the right office in the basement, I told the clerk what I wanted. "Do you know how to type," she asked? She showed me where an old manual typewriter rested and explained what to put in the appropriate boxes on the three forms. I was then instructed to appear in the upstairs courthouse at 1 PM. I had a cup of coffee while watching those twenty minutes tick by.

As the clock struck one, I was the sole occupant in the old courtroom and gazed contentedly at the burnished oak panels. Who else would be crazy enough to do this on Christmas

Eve? The female judge asked me the reason for the name change request and I told her it was for my impending sex reassignment surgery. She grimaced slightly, I suspect, for making her do some work on Christmas Eve, but she signed the document. I returned to the basement office to have the document filed and paid $22 to the clerk. I was required by law to publish a notice of the name change for three consecutive days in a local newspaper. The clerk told me what paper most people used and my ad cost only $13. Instead of paying hundreds of dollars to a lawyer, I spent $35 and took two hours of my time. It was extremely easy.

I probably wasn't the first pre-op transsexual to visit that court and office for such a request and I won't be the last. For them, this procedure is routine, so don't worry about what they may think.

STEP 2: Driver's License. Now that my name reflected my female personna, I needed some identification to show that I was legally JoAnn Renee Cone. Of the entire process, this may be he most embarassing part, but you can live through it as I did. Though there may be a lot of people at the license bureau, you should not receive any hassle. I had an unusual set ofcircumstances.

It was cold and wet on the day after Christmas. My Idaho driver's license had expired some time ago. Since I was an Army officer at the time, I had been told the state driver's license would be valid while I was in the service. Much to my dismay, the law had been apparently changed and my expire driver's license was now invalid.

I chose a female license examiner who appeared to be about my age and gave her my old license and a copy of the court ordered name change. She didn't bat an eye, but requested to see my Army I.D. too. The examiner was courteous and professional towards me. But after I told her my thoughts on the Idaho laws, she called her supervisor over and they deliberated for several minutes over the little blue book of state laws. Everyone behind me wondered why they were taking so long with me. In the end, I would have to take the written exam and the road test. I hadn't taken one of those since I was 14.

If your state driver's license is currently valid, you probably won't be required to take the written exam and road test, as I had to. I passed them both passing with flying colors and the female examiner was great.

They told me that my license would bear the male sexdesignation until after I had the surgery. The license was typed out, signed, photo processed and I left the Department of Motor Vehicles with my new driver's license carefully tucked away in my purse. I was legal.

Getting a new driver's license can be embarassing perhaps, only if one encounters unexpected hassles or unwanted delays. Apparently, the clerks and officers there had dealt with many previous transsexuals before. I had chosen a female officer at the exam desk whom I thought I could relate to best. The entire process went very smooth for me.

STEP 3: Financial Affairs. Most people have at least one savings and checking account. Since most businesses want to see some I.D. when you write a check, you don't want to have your old name on the checks or account. Give your bank a copy of the name change (by the way, have four to five dozen copies of the court ordered document made expressly for this purpose). If you keep the old bank account, they mat want to add your new name to the account and won't delete the old name. Not a bad idea, if you ever need to cash a check in the old name. Have checks printed with your new name. Request the bank to send the statements addressed to both names. I had to fight with one bank for a couple of months over this issue.

If you open up a new account at a different bank, the procedure is much easier. Show them your I.D., choose your checks and deposit your money. At that time, or at a later date, apply for

a check guarantee card and an automatic teller card.

The choice of a new name is important if you keep your old bank accounts with dual names. If you choose a new first name but wish to keep your old last name, try to keep the same initials. It will make things easier later. For instance, if your birth name was Robert James Jones and as you move through an anydrogynous period, start using the initials of B. J. Jones. You might even want a legal name change to something androgynous that either sex could use, as B. J. in this case. When you do get your name changed to what you want it to be as in this example of Barbara Jean Jones, your records, mail, checks and so forth, might not have a pattern of continuity. It's fine to have checks with both B.J. and Barbara Jean Jones on them, but with your financial records, as well as postal address, a continuity will help smooth a few problems in this phase three of your legal process.

I had been living in androgeny for years going by myinitials of J.R. Knowing my planned gender transition many years ago, I had all of my college diplomas printed with my initials and this is something you can't have redone later. But in a case like Dr. Renee Richards, where she changed her name altogether, she did encounter state cetification problems arise because of her past identity. Had she initially used her old initials when she was granted a medical license, changing only her first name but keeping the same initial when she moved her practice to California and applied for state certification there, she would have already set down a trail to her gender past with the prior use of her initials. She could have registered as Renee in California and no one would have known.

To play the Devil's advocate on the other side to present a clearer picture, her previous tennis play as Richard on the east coast made her well known in sports circles. Had gone through the steps mentioned above, it is likely that no reporter could have uncovered her past and we may never have known about her.

As some of you are professionals and may also be intransition, you may fall into state or federal license or certification in your professions and if you don't want anyone to know of your past, be careful in name selection and in the changing procedure you choose. Your steps here may savedifficulties later.

Armed with a new name, personal identification, and a checking and savings account in your new personna, it is time for 'normal' day to day living. My own therapist, who is a conservative lady, advised me not to go farther than required. Don't do anything you can't back out of later if you want to. None of these legal changes are irrevocable, as is the sex reassignemnt surgery. Your name can be changed back if you feel you have made a mistake in the gender transition. Be sure of what you want before you take these legal steps. Careful planning before hand may save problems and difficutlies later, should you wish to back out.

For changing credit cards, send a copy of the name change to the company and request them to change their files and issue a card in yur new name. This is easy in theory but some financial companies can be resistive. I threatened to sue two companies to force them to change my name, using the argument that it is libelous under the Uniform Commerical Code of Business Law and against the Federal Privacy Act, since I did not give permission for that company to give out my old name to other parties and sending correspondence through the mail for other people see the old name qualified as a violation. Following my threat, I received a letter of apology from the president of one company, who said he personally saw to it that my account was changed. My angry letter to them did have some positive results. I also received a letter of apology from their legal firm, stating that if I encountered any future problems, I was to contact them first before taking any legal actions. By knowing a little bit about business and federal law, it is possible to make the laws work for us.

Your financial file in the credit bureau must

also be changed to match your new accounts. There are a number of credit agencies in Denver and a few of them are linked together elcetronically. A couple of credit agencies informed me they could not change my name on their records since they claimed it was against the Securities and Exchange Commission regulations. The SEC has nothing to do in matters of this nature, as they deal strictly with securities. This was a ruse to throw me off. One firm told me they would add my new name to the old account file and when I applied for new credit, simply put down both names. I didn't want the whole world knowing of my past. But I did find one company who told me they would do it for a $5 fee. I sent them the money and a photo copy of the court order of my name change and refer to their company as a credit reference when applying for credit elsewhere. Other people have told me they had no problems in this area.

Once the identity and financial records are taken care of, there is more work to be done. With a new driver's license, you must change your automobile registration and title. This matter would have quickly been brought to light had you been stopped by a cop who requested to see your license and registration. Since you must carry the registration in the car at all times, make a photo copy of it, and send it along with a copy of your name change and a letter requesting a new registration to reflect your legal name change. In my case, since I owned the title, I changed that first, then the registration, so the state could refer to the title registry. In anything, this process will cost $3-5 for administration fees.

Use the services of an attorney to have real estate property changed over to your new name since laws in each state may vary. Have the attorney handle the escrow account and the holder of your mortgage as well.

Educational records also need to be changed. Colleges do this all the time. Send them a copy of your court order, the year of graduation, or years attended with them. Request a corrected copy of the transcripts at this time. Make sure everything is correct in their files. Some schools have told people over the phone they would do this, but good follow-up is needed here. Write in the first place.

One of my transcripts covered college years from the early 70's to the 80's, also credited my military service. The registrar changed my name at the top of the transcript and then through the record at the top of each grading period, which showed a military history, as JoAnn but they didn't fill in the sex block. Colleges will change your transcripts, but they won't issue a new diploma. If your diplomas were printed with your male name, you may be stuck with it. Since my female initials match my former male ones, my diplomas bearing my initials are fine. If in a job where they may check back farther than college, ask your high school to change your name as well. Fortunately for me, my grade school records were destoryed when that building was gutted by fire.

My military and veteran's records also needed changing. I had my name changed before I left the service (I was on administrative leave for four months while my resignation was being processed). When I returned wearing my officer's uniform for outprocessing, though with certain feminized physical changes and long hair, things went much smoother than I anticipated. They changed my name right there on all my Army records before the records were sent to the library in St. Louis. I also received my honorable discharge for being a transsexual and my DD-214 in my female name as well, not to mention my final orders. In spite of some long stares from two colonels, I breezed through Army outprocessing like an olympic racer. I can now prove my past history as JoAnn in the Army.

Records at Social Security will need to be changed. This process took me less than five minutes and my new card came in the mail two weeks later. All insurances had to be updated. I had two term life policies re-issued bearing my female name. One policy I had to fight over but

they changed it in the the end. And of course postal records and magazine subscriptions should be changed.

One area that may undoubtedly cause problems is with the Internal Revenue Service. I haven't heard of anyone who hasn't had problems with them. When you change your name with Social Security, they should send the new data, such as a name change, to the IRS. Sometimes the two agencies have computers that do not match up and they don't seem to communicate too well through the mail. Do not be surprised if when you change your name on January 1 and a year later after sending in your tax return bearing your new name, to receive a refund check made out to your former name. Stand your ground. Go to the local IRS office with your name change document and request a new check be issued bearing your legal name. I could not cash a check made out to my former name, as I no longer have any I.D. matching that person.

If you have an attorney, it may be a good idea to send him a letter bearing your name change and a note explaining what is going on. I was in the middle of a divorce when I changed my name. I sent her a letter, a copy of the court order and some money I owed her. I received a phone call and she said she had read my letter four times. She didn't think it was real but decided it was since I also sent money. She hadn't dealt with a transsexual before, but she was professional though somewhat surprised. My attorney had to re-issue the court request for the divorce in my female name. My 'ex' was not pleased with divorce papers that listed two women seeking a divorce. She said, "What will people think?" I told her to simply tell them she was married to a pre-operative transsexual and two women could not stay married.

There are other issues that should be handled separately, such as a work history. What I have outlined here are some of the basics that need to be addressed in this time of legal transition in a transsexual's life. If you embark on these changes with some purpose and specific plans in mind, you should get through them just fine, and as in Renee Richard's case, not have your past life revealed through some faulty planning. For a change like this, all the facts need to be thought out before you implement the legal procedures. It is possible to have the changes switched back if you change your mind later. It won't be impossible but it will time consuming and embarassing the second time around. If you have the same judge, he or she may hesistate to grant a second or third name change because you don't seem to know what you want.

Though these procedures are time consuming, each of them can be handled by yourself, saving the lawyer's fees. Armed with this information, you have some idea of what and how to do it. You can follow the yellow brick road, on your way to see that gender wizard in Oz.

- END -

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COMPULSIVENESS, INTIMACY'S SUBSTITUTE

By
Kyelle Blake

"To venture causes anxiety, but not to venture is to lose one's self... And to venture in the highest sense is precisely to become conscious of one's self."

- Kierkegaard

The human spirit requires intimacy to live as much as the human body requires water and food. The baby receives a diet of nurturing intimacy through many physical avenues. Through cuddling, rocking, being nursed, and being held, the infant learns that life after birth can be as secure as life in the womb. In the intimate environment of a healthy home, the child learns to express and share feelings, discovers that being vulnerable and taking risks can be done with safety, and gains the skills needed to live away from the security of womb and home. Through the intimacies of peer relationships, the adolescent learns more about himself or herself as an individual who is distinct from the parents. In the intimacies of love, two adults gain the wholeness that no individual can ever quite have alone. If one is a religious type (most folk are to some degree), the cycle of intimacy comes full circle in one's relationship with God.

I have experienced some distortions of the cycle of intimacy in my life. The first distortion happened in my first year. The woman with whom I bonded as a newborn was removed from my life when I was three months old. With her departure, intimacy departed from the rest of my childhood. Several family features in my childhood indicate the lack of intimacy that I experienced.

Being held, hugged or kissed were so foreign to my childhood that I had to learn as an adult to hug. Family secrets were carefully guarded from the public and not discussed in private. Having and expressing feelings only caused anxiety. Human life was treated as if it were totally asexual.

Compulsions form themselves within us to soothe our emptiness, wounds and loneliness. I learned early in childhood to attach my compulsiveness to cross-dressing. Usually in the privacy of a both or shower, I tried on whatever female clothes might be around. Those few minutes felt so much better than all the rest of my days with all their lack of intimacy. As an adult, I continued to experience in connection with cross-dressing the sense that life would be so much better if only I could be this feminine creature all the time. Intimacy, not femininity, was the missing ingredient in my life.

As the lack of intimacy in my early childhood had an impact upon my discovering the joys of cross-dressing, my cross-dressing in my adolescence had an impact upon my ability to be intimate with others. Relationships with girls were excruciatingly difficult because I harbored the secret fear that I was supposed to be one of them. With all that femininity flouncing around within, relationships with boys were equally painful. The growing experiences in intimacy with others outside the family are the stepping stones from adolescence to adulthood. How I tripped, stumbled and fell up those steps! I could only be intimate with myself and that is a contradiction in terms.

Both the needs to cross-dress and to be intimate have a paradoxical quality. We need and crave intimacy. When the opportunity for intimacy draws near, we back away. The paradoxical element in cross-dressing can be heard expressed in conversations with transvestites. In one moment, the fun and thrill of make-up, fixing a wig, or a recent shopping trip will be celebrated. Then from the same mouths will come, "What a pain in the butt this business of being a woman is." We love it; we hate it. Such contradictions are the nature of paradox.

The needs for intimacy and for cross-dressing with their paradoxes are uniquely matched to take care of each other. When the attention is given over to all the aspects of dressing, little energy is left over to feel the need for intimacy with anyone else. When cross-dressing is put aside, either by choice or because of circumstances, the intimacy need may be profoundly felt. The desire to cross-dress and depression are two phenomena with which I am well acquainted. I have never experienced them both at the same time. Likewise, when wholesome and satisfying intimacy is being experienced, the compulsiveness in cross- dressing slips away. Compulsions are substitutes for intimacy. When one is receiving a healthy dose of the real thing, the other isn't needed to fill the emptiness.

The need for intimacy can be found at play in the experiences of coming out and passing. Passing effectively is beyond my means. Nevertheless, the desire to zip through a shopping mall in a skirt has not escaped me. "Wouldn't it be great to pass as a woman." That sentence can be translated into, "My need for intimacy is thirsting for satisfaction." The paradox of intimacyis at play here. We want it. We don't want it. Success at passing might be obtained. But what does that amount to? I succeed in passing in my shopping mall attack. The passing test is a success, the search for intimacy is a failure. I pass and in the process nobody knows who I am. The compulsion to pass becomes stronger and stronger. Of course it does, because compulsions are our soul's tools for taking care of our needs. The compulsion to pass is destined to failure before it begins because it is looking for the right thing (intimacy) in the wrong place (passing). Inherent to intimacy is being known. Inherent to passing is not being known. In the face of predestined failure, all the compulsion to pass can do is work harder and harder and become stronger and stronger. The compulsion will do both of those things because such is the nature of compulsion.

The need for intimacy is a part of the package in coming out also. Each person has a different threshold of pain when it comes to surviving the pain of loneliness in the closet. years might go by trying to fill the soul's emptiness by filling the closet with clothes and stuffing ourselves into those clothes. At some point, the closet's inability to fill the soul's need for intimacy will be discovered. My first step in coming out was taken with my wife. Of course, at that point the furthest thing from my mind was the thought that I was taking care of my need for intimacy. I was feeling fear, guilt, anxiety, shame, alienation and pain. The lack of intimacy in my life was the potin which all of those things had been stewing for a long time. I also felt the paradox of intimacy as I approached coming out. I was torn apart by my desire to share my story and my equally strong desire to keep the secret. The only way to break the paradoxical tension was by simply being intimate. In telling my story to my wife, I ran the risk of vulnerability. Running risks has its

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rewards. Without taking that step, I would have never found the inner freedom and grace in life that I have since experienced.

Living intimately is done on three different but related levels. Those levels are found in one's relationships with self, others and God. Being intimate with others requires living intimately with one's self. Central to living intimately is offering to others and having for one's self a non-judgmental permission to be one's self. The closet life, although private and secret, is hardly intimate. The closet's secrecy separated me from my own and anyone else's permission to be who I am and imposed a self-condemning judgment. My living more intimately began with my recognizing and making some choices. I could choose the closet's secrecy and continue to hate myself. Or I could choose to love myself and act accordingly. I could choose between being driven by a compulsion or consciously accepting my feminine side and finding ways to affirm and share it. There were many other choices. Life has gained a large measure of peace by making those positive choices about myself.

Accompanying the increase in living intimately has been a reduction of the compulsiveness in cross-dressing. That reduction has not been accomplished through any effort to controlthe compulsion. Living intimately includes freedom from efforts to control thoughts, emotions and feelings. That freedom is experienced internally with one's own self and externally with others. When I feel my compulsions churning, I try to listen to them. Compulsions are words in the language of the soul. My compulsion is my soul's effort to tell me about its emptiness and pain. Sometimes, all I can do when my soul is screaming is say to it, "OK, soul, if it will make you feel better, let's make some plans for putting on a skirt and blouse." Sometimes my soul responds with, "Thank you, but that's not necessary right now." Souls, like people, find great comfort in simply receiving some attention. An internal dialogue leaves much less wear and tear than an internal argument between my desire to control and my compulsion. Making choices that affirm my femininity also help to reduce the compulsiveness. More and more my cross-dressing activities have become planned events in conjunction with sharing that part of myself with someone else. By planning time to explore and enjoy my feminine side and sharing the exploration and fun with someone else, I am accepting and affirming who I am. Self-acceptance and affirmation are inherent in intimate living. The more my soul receives that acceptance, the less it needs to scream out in the language of compulsiveness that I might know my need for intimacy.

- END -

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WOMAN TO WOMAN

(This article first appeared in SHAFT's Newsletter but because it is so relevant to the needs of our members it is reprinted here with grateful permission.)

My experience of watching my friend change roles and the difficulties and problems she has encountered has lead me to believe that perhaps a little guidance on clothes, make-up and behavior might not come amiss. Writers in SHAFT tend to make general comments such as 'develop a dress sense' but, not surprisingly considering the complexity of the subject, tend not to go into detail of how to do this.

As a female who experienced severe difficulties in this process, mainly because my parents discouraged the use of the mirror that could lead to vanity, it took many years to acquire an acceptable style that adequately reflected my personality and made me look as attractive as I possibly could given the equipment nature provided.

Society accepts that teenagers and young women occasionally look bizarre and/or disastrous during the establishment of a personal style and identity, but the older M to F transsexual cannot afford to do this too often when the object is to pass successfully. What looks bizarre on young bodies can look rather disgusting on ageing skin and muscles starting to give way to gravity, a problem faced by us all and not just transsexuals.

So I have therefore compiled a check list for those in the first stages of becoming a woman. I apologize if some of the points seem obvious, but I am basing the information on the mistakes seen made by my friend and by one or two other transsexuals I have been introduced to.

MIRROR USE

Constant checking of one's appearance in front of a mirror is essential. I can appreciate that it is somewhat difficult to develop a critical eye when the immediate response to the image is pleasure at the great improvement in one's appearance, but it is vital to do so if you want to appear as any other woman.

Spend as much time as possible trying on all your clothes in front of a full length mirror. Try to be objective and look critically at the presented image: all women have figure faults and have to learn how to dress to disguise those faults. No one is pleased when forced to examine another's spare tyre because it has been dressed in a snug fitting sweater. Check dress length, colour combinations and styles for the best effect.

MAKE UP

Age is a very important factor here. In the United States old ladies wear much more make

68up than they do here in this country: we tend to find that idea rather disgusting, so it is important if you want to pass as a British lady that you follow the rules. I am not defending the rules, merely pointing them out.

Foundation: The foundation is applied to ensure an even skin tone. So that it doesn't appear too mask like, choose a colour that blends easily into the neck colour. A light application should be all that is needed, ageing skin is emphasized rather than disguised by heavy make up as it tends to crack and flake off with facial movement. All make up should be applied after you have dressed to avoid covering your sweater with foundation as you pull it over your head.

Face powder: A light dusting of translucent power is all that is needed to seal foundation or lipstick. Too much falls off onto clothes and gives an ill groomed look.

Blushers and Shades: There are so many disasters which can be produced by the use of blushers and shades that I tend to avoid them altogether. However, if you have a plump face that needs some definition, it is best to take expert advice. There is nothing worse than the painted doll image that can be produced by inexpertly applied shaders.

Eye make up: The less flamboyant colors are best for someone who wants to become acceptable as a woman but doesn't want too much close attention. The object of eye shadow is to make the eyes look larger and to emphasis the natural colour; practice in front of a mirror is essential. Women's magazines often run advice on this so a regular subscription to one of those would be useful.

Don't be tempted to use too much mascara, little bits tend to fall off onto the cheeks and look horrible.

Don't over pencil the eyebrows: Bette Davis' heyday was a long, long time ago.

Removing eye make up is difficult, but I use Astral or Nivea. Eye make up removers tend to make a lot of people's eyes puffy.

Lipstick: Choose muted tones unless you are very young.

NAIL VARNISH

Applying nail varnish is a tedious and time consuming process. The nails must be perfectly shaped (use emery boards; steel nail files tear nails to pieces) and the cuticles in good condition. Two or three applications are needed, and each one must be allowed to dry thoroughly before the next. Any smudging or damage and the varnish must be removed and the process started again. The final result must be smooth. If lumpy the varnish will chip, and chipped varnish is unsightly and unhygienic.

Do not paint toe nails if you have nails that have thickened with age or feet that are less than perfect. These are examples of minor imperfections which we do not wish to draw attention to, and nail varnish is a great drawer of attention.

Be careful with colour. Choose natural or shell pinks unless you are very young. Bright red nail varnish went out with the dodo and is only now associated with 'common women', a dreadful analysis I know, but these are the mores that are prevalent today.

I find the whole process of using nail varnish and keeping it in good condition too much hassle, and tend to concentrate on keeping my nails clean and well shaped. Nail varnish is only really suitable for those with plenty of time, or for special occasions.

HAIR STYLE

Look at the styles worn by the smart women around you. Bouffant styles belong in the sixties, so choose a style that is up to date and have your hair professionally cut. Don't be tempted

to produce your own casual style by snipping at it yourself, we've all made that mistake and regretted it at sometime in our lives.

If you wear wigs choose them with care. Take expert advice. A hairdressing colleague tells me that wigs take more time and trouble than your own hair to make look natural. They have to be dressed daily and should be trimmed and styled on your own head.

CLOTHING

This is where a full length mirror is essential. Time and care should be taken over the choice of clothes. Never buy on impulse. If you are tall, skirts and dresses that come several inches below the knee are essential, unless of course you are very young.

Tall women can look very elegant providing they take care over their clothes. A slim calf length skirt topped with a blouson jacket which comes down low on the hips hides many figure faults and can look marvelous.

If you have a large frame, avoid frills and busy prints. Plain colors look much better. Develop a critical eye so you can spot a style which looks silly or emphasizes your height and frame.

Tailored clothes look better on broad shoulders. Shirt waister dresses look superb but can cause problems if the waist is too high. If this is your problem (it is mine), wear separates instead.

Choose clothes that are plenty big enough. A sweater that is too small and short in the sleeve will look just that; do not deceive yourself into thinking it will look like close fitting sweater with three-quarter sleeves. In any case, if you have long arms, three-quarter sleeves will only emphasize them and are therefore best avoided. Blouses which fit the shoulders and have full, long sleeves and a full body are the best.

Do not wear low necklines unless you are prepared to ensure the exposed chest and neck area is completely hair free. This means shaving or using a depilatory nearly every day Stretch the skin carefully to avoid anything being tucked away in the skinfolds.

Buy clothes intended for tall women - Marks & Spencer do longer lengths so you needn't go to the very expensive tall girl shops. However, your clothes are going to be more expensive so be prepared to spend many hours bargain hunting if you are on a limited income, and take care to co-ordinate the colors and styles so you can get maximum use from them.

FEELING FEMALE IS A STATE OF MIND.

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SHOES

Be sensible about shoes. If you need to walk about a lot, go in for low heels. Try to buy colors which match the handbags.

If you have gnarled feet and thickened toe nails, do not expose them to public gaze in open sandals; choose light summer shoes instead.

It is worth mentioning at this point that I often make mistakes and break the rules; but when that happens, I merely look a mess, whereas my transsexual friend looks like a man in drag.

TERMINOLOGY

Familiarize yourself with the current expressions to describe your clothes rather than those dredged up from your subconscious; they are probably your mother's! For example, sandals are never referred to as 'strippies' or 'strappies' these days, flat shoes are no longer called 'flatties', and the use of such expressions sound self conscious.

Nor do we describe such items belonging to ourselves as little ('a little black dress' or 'a little black number' went out years ago) and it can sound ludicrous when the nice 'little strippies' being described are actually size nines, or the 'little black number' is a size eighteen. Such outmoded expressions put the user in the category of 'odd', the last category one would wish to be in.

BEHAVIOR

This is difficult territory but I feel compelled to make a couple of comments.

I went to a 'mixed' party (TSs, TVs and straights). All the TSs and TVs were standing in sculptured poses, chins at a certain angle, bags clutched under the arms. The 'straight' women were moving around and chatting in a much more lively manner. The air of studied tranquility among the 'new' women did not quite work. Try to relax and behave naturally (I am sure that this comes with practice).

Sitting down wearing a skirt has an art to it. Never sit with the knees apart, particularly if the skirt is on the short side. The embarrassed looks on your companions' faces are likely to be there because they can see your knickers. Sit with the knees together and ankles crossed, or both legs to one side, or cross your legs - anything but this female equivalent of flashing (albeit unconscious).

If you are a six-foot-two do not refer to the five-foot male in the doorway as a 'big strong man', you are liable to be misunderstood.

If there is any lifting going on, particularly if it is the other women who are doing the lifting, lend a hand unless you are incapable of doing so. If that is so explain why you can't help.

For guidelines on behavior, dress and self presentation, watch the women in your own age group whose appearance you admire. If you are in your fifties and don't wish to behave and dress like a middle aged granny, choose models of the same age who do not. To dress and act like a young girl when you are not is a recipe for disaster.

Use your mirror constantly, become your own best critic and shop with care and you'll do fine. Read the women's magazines which are aimed at your own age group for advice on make up and hair styles and for some idea of fashion.

- END -

PSYCHOLOGY

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#17)

By
Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Definitions often create more problems than they are meant to solve. So it is with the terms transvestism and transsexualism.

Reaching back into history, we find that the term transvestism was probably coined first and was used to describe all behaviors where the members of one physical sex (usually the male) adopted the dress of the other sex. Often this term had overtones of homosexual behavior. As we learned more about sexual behaviors and feelings, differences in this group were noticed.

Researchers and clinicians decided another term was needed, so transsexualism was created. Since that time people have generally used these terms to describe two distinct kinds of transgender behavior. The sub-culture has added many terms of their own as they felt the need to separate themselves from the clinical implications of the original terms.

Classically, the 'difference' between male transvestites and transsexuals often pivots on the issue of sexual arousal from cross-dressing. The transvestite is sexually aroused while the transsexual is not aroused. A number of other behaviors are often used to further differentiate between transvestites and transsexuals. A therapist will ask about the age at which such feelings began, how strong the feelings are and how constant they are. Generally the younger the age at which the person began to feel like the other sex and the more constant that feeling, the more likely it is that they are transsexual.

In addition to these behavioral differences, there have been several theoretical attempts to put trans-gender behaviors on a scale. Probably the first instance of this was done by Dr. Harry Benjamin, one of the pioneers in transsexual treatment. Dr. Benjamin devised a six-point scale that was patterned after the Kinsey scale for heterosexual and homosexual behaviors. In the Benjamin scale, transvestism was at one end and transsexualism was at the other. In between there were varying shades of behavior. Other researchers and thinkers have proposed other scales, which included heterosexual and homosexual components or anatomical constructs. These scales are another attempt to make sense of the various behaviors. As with the definitions, they are good in the abstract and for further research, but fall short when applied to a specific person.

Why go to all this trouble? Sex researchers want to be able to understand sexual behaviors, thus their research and theories. The major reason therapists make such distinctions is to determine what direction clinical treatment should take. If a person is transsexual, the outcome is often to assist the person in making a transition from one gender role to the other. Because this transition is not reversible, it is very important to be sure that this is the right decision.

As I talk with clients, I come to the conclusion that each is unique. The scales and definitions help me understand their needs, but in the end each person has to find a way to harmonize their own feelings. Some choose genital reassignment surgery, some choose hormone therapy. Others look for ways to blend the male and female aspects of their personality.

Transvestite, cross-dresser, transsexual, transgenderist, femmiphile, drag queen, androgyne, male, female, heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, masculine, feminine, man,

woman. The label is less important than feeling good about who you are and living in harmony with those around you.

- END -

PSYCHOLOGY

(Edited from the Neutral Corner Newsletter, Neutral Corner, P.O. Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112)

PAT ANSWERS

(Questions presented to and answered by Pat Wojdowski, L.C.S.W. You are invited to send queries to Pat c/o Editor, c/o Neutral Corner Newsletter, P.O. Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112)

Dear Reader,

Many times you write to ask what new research is being done in regard to male transvestism. I often explain there is minimal available and tell you why. In this column and the next, I will share with you the results of a recent computer search of the literature. The review consisted of everything under the heading of transvestism published from 1984 on. Both Med Line (medical literature) and psychological abstracts were used. In response, I received listings of 26 articles. Of these, only five dealt exclusively with the subject of transvestism and six others compared characteristics of certain sexual subgroups such as homosexuals, transsexuals, transvestites, and etc.

One article entitled, 'Antiandrogenic Treatment of a Gender Dysphoric Transvestite' (Brantley and Wise, Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy, Vol. 11, No. 2, Summer 1985) discusses the use of a synthetic female hormone, diethylstilbesterol, to reduce the desire to crossdress in a 65 year old transvestite who developed a transsexual wish. He requested treatment to reduce his need to wear women's clothing but refused psychotherapy. The article cites other references in the literature which report the use of different female hormones (i.e. antiandrogenic) to reduce the same compulsion. The author basically claims that the medication did this by suppressing erotic fantasy. He is careful to point out that his results do not suggest a hormonal basis for tranvestic impulses or behavior. He also notes other references in the literature reporting similar approaches and results.

A critical look between the lines at an article such as this, leads to many questions and second thoughts. First, there are side effects and dangers to hormone therapy as there are with many medications. In particular to diethylstilbesterol are liver problems, increased risk of certain cancers, mental depression, dermatitis, abdominal problems and decreased libido. This article did not mention anything about the patient experiencing erectile dysfunction as well. The reader cannot help but consider this to be a serious problem, especially since the patient was married.

Two articles pertain to the spouses of transvestites. One of these, 'Coping With a Transvestic Mate: Clinical Applications' (Thomas Wise, Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy, Vol. 11, No. 4, Winter 1985), reviews the coping styles of twenty women with transvestite spouses. Only two of the wives were reported to accept and enjoy their husband's crossdressing. The remaining eighteen were demoralized and agitated, their coping reactions being rage, rejection, depression, passivity, overt or subtle punishment of the husband, alcoholism and

unrealistic hopes for a cure.

In discussing the treatment of these women, the author claims it is unrealistic for the therapist to have a goal of helping the wife to accept the transvestism, as he claims that the fetish is more important to the man than his family. The husband sends a clear message to the wife that she is a second class sexual citizen. My own thoughts regarding these conclusions are to suspect that the author was seeing a biased sample group with chronic marital and other problems not necessarily prevalent in wives of transvestites. I would also strongly question his assumption that there is no point in helping the woman to accept or adjust to the crossdressing. At the time the column was going to press, I have still to receive other articles and will review them in the next issue. There seems to be the possibility of some interesting work regarding childhood indicators of transvestism plus one additional article regarding spouses of transvestites.

Pat

IN SEARCH OF THE INVISIBLE TRANSSEXUAL

by
Veronica Jean Brown

On the evening of April 18th, 1985, I was seated in the private office of the Reverend Canon Clinton R. Jones, at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, Connecticut, nervously waiting for my turn to appear before the board of the New England Gender Identity Clinic. I was there with my housemate Becky, who had recently completed the mandatory one year of cross living in the female gender role. Becky was there to seek approval from the board for her sex-reassignment surgery. I had been on hormones since 1977 and was at that time, under the care of a New York City endocrinologist, and had been seeing a New York area counselor. I was at the board meeting to seek entry into the clinic's hormone therapy program, and since I had been cross living full time in the female gender role since 1984, to also get surgery approval.

Becky was the first applicant scheduled to see the board members, and I was the second. In the office with us were a number of persons of questionable and undetermined gender, also waiting their turn. At one point, the door to the hallway opened and in stepped a gorgeous woman with a slender body and ample feminine curves and proportions, with long blond hair, exquisite flawless makeup and who wore a stunning red dress. I quickly compared my own drab outfit of a modest feminine top, denim skirt, low heeled brown pumps, hastily applied makeup and unconsciously primped my less than ample curly permed hair. There was no valid comparison to be made. There was no contest between any of us in the room, and the newcomer who stood there gracefully in the doorway, smi ling so femininely at us.

I'll call this person Mary, but that was not her real name. Mary sat and talked with us for a while and the only thing that gave her away to me as being one of us, was her slightly husky voice, which would not have been even noticed by a non-transsexual. Mary was there to get surgery approval from the clinic. The beginnings of little lines around the eyes marked Mary as being perhaps, in her late twenties,

though she looked younger. Her face was of classic feminine proportions, and there was not a trace of beard shadow or an adam's apple. Unlike myself, she had obviously been lucky enough to have started hormone therapy before her own male hormones instigated any loss of hair. Her fingers were long and slender and her nails well manicured and polished. It is quite possible that Mary, like Tula, had been a natural beauty wonder as a boy, before beginning her transition. Mary had not, to anyone's knowledge, attended a single meeting of the XX Club, no one had ever seen her before that evening, and no one has seen her since. She was scheduled to get married to her boy friend after getting her sex-reassignment surgery.

Seven months earlier, in October 1984, I attended the Outreach Institute's Fantasia Fair, held in Provincetown, Massachusetts, on the tip of Cape Cod. Of the few transsexuals I met there, Ariel (not her real name) was the one who left me with the best impression, and was a completely feminine and totally passable pre-op from one of the New England states. She was scheduled to have her surgery the following year in Trinidad, Colorado. This warm and beautiful person exhibited all the feminine grace and charm of someone who had been a woman all of her natural life. I have never seen her again at any TV/TS gathering. And rightly so, she was a total woman already, and had no need for the gender culture.

In 1980, Twentieth Century Fox released a film produced by Sydney H. Levine, written and directed by Joseph Van Winkle, titled, THE WOMAN INSIDE. The film starred Gloria Manon as Hollis/Holly, the transsexual, Dane Clark, as the mild mannered, understanding surgeon who performs the SRS on Holly, Joan Blondell as Holly's lowlife aunt, and Michael Champion, as Holly's first love. The film takes the viewer through the anguish, suffering and frustration of a gender dysphoric Hollis. In comparison to reality, the major flaw in the film was the miraculous physical transformation undergone by Hollis to Holly after only six months of hormone therapy.

The character of Holly, while acknowledging herself to be a transsexual person, refuses to take part in any transsexual support group, because she is sure of what she is doing and has no doubts about herself as a woman. Near the end of the film, Holly attends a support group meeting at the insistence of her surgeon, Dr. Rossner, to get a better grasp of what she is about to embark on as the result of her impending surgery. Holly is not pleased with what she hears from the pre and post-operatives at the support meeting. She tells Dr. Rossner that most transsexuals spend half their lives dreaming about becoming women and the rest of their lives explaining about it and apologizing to those around them for being a transsexual. She says of the post-operative transsexuals, that they were sitting on a ledge, looking down to see how far they might fall, or looking over their

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shoulders, afraid someone might push them over edge. Holly refuses to spend the rest of her life boasting to others how she had the courage to do it. She wants a new beginning, a new start as a complete, whole person, and to be the woman she was always meant to be.

Pollyanna was a pre-op I met some years back who was so convincing as a woman, I was shocked to learn she wasn't. She had everything, it seemed, I didn't have and naturally, I looked to Pollyanna for support, guidance, friendship and that special kind of love two women can feel for each other, if indeed pre-ops are truly capable of that kind of feminine and unique encounter. She knew how to play up to others to get what she needed and was sometimes there when others needed help. Pollyanna went into the woodwork some time ago, intent on developing her total female self. From time to time, I've heard, she has surfaced here and there, amidst her old pre-op haunts, still looking for and needing something from those she turned her back on.

And then there was Lydia. She was a good friend to me and I thought I knew her well. She was outgoing, vivacious, full of life and had been living as a woman since the age of puberty. She had the advantage of large silicone breasts, extensive cosmetic facial surgery, had a marvelous husky feminine voice, and sported a head full of nearly waist length, brunette hair. Lydia had been all over the country and Canada, and in her pre-op life, had been a barmaid, a prostitute working the truck stops, a prison inmate, an exotic dancer, and had even been married a few times. She was a street wise hustler and con lady, and I came to love her dearly. She hustled her way into her sex-reassignment surgery in Mexico last year. But, she's gone now. She took off one day and left her husband at home. She went off to find herself again, leaving the rest of us to pick up the scattered pieces she left behind.

For those of us who are active in the gender culture, much has been said of the post-operative transsexual who goes into the woodwork, rarely or never to be seen or heard of again. These seemingly ungrateful people are unwilling to teach, counsel or offer help to newcomers. As I have discovered for myself, there are a number of reasons for this phenomenon.

Early on in my transition, I spent much of my social time in the company of gays, lesbians and transvestites. The gays were curious, and the bi-sexuals sought me out for my unique combination of masculine and feminine qualities. Others were suspicious and some even hostile. The lesbians exhibited indifference or vehement hostility. The crossdressing group seemed on the surface, willing to accept me for what I was. Because of my lowly position on the outer circle of the gender culture, transsexual persons at that time, were nearly impossible to find, meet or even contact. The few I did meet were careful not to leak out any personal information.

I soon learned that some transvestites were envious of the hormone induced feminine changes in my body, and that they were unwilling to risk their manhood to achieve similar effects to enhance their crossdressed appearance. Other transvestites, the ones who crossdress to parody and put women down, severely chastised me for even thinking of wanting to become that second class human, known as woman. And still others, openly ridiculed me for my low key style of crossdressing. But for the most part, the majority of crossdressers I have encountered, have exhibited some degree of open minded acceptance of me.

The passage of time has a way of diminishing the hurts and pain of negative experiences. And in the gender transition of a transsexual, these can be many and severe. Problems come from spouses, loved ones, children, parents, well meaning religious people, and even from employers, if the transsexual chooses to remain on their present job. The biggest problem however, comes from within the transsexual

person, and these are the ones characterized by the seething turmoil reflected in the all encompassing search for self identity and the bewildering quest for gender happiness.

For the post-operative transsexual who continues to be visible in the TV/TS gender culture, the results can have far reaching negative consequences. If you have not learned to become a strong person, or haven't acquired a thick shell, you may be dragged back under by those souls struggling for survival in the sea of gender incongruity. You either stand firm, or flee for your safety. The long buried memories of that former male life turned to dust by years of hormone therapy, extensive counseling and those first crude steps into crossliving, will reassemble themselves on the surface fringes of your female mind. The never ending stream of questions from the wide eyed pre-ops echo a sad sameness. How did your wife take it? Did you lose your friends? How did your family react? How long have you known you were a transsexual? Were you always sure of what you wanted? Are you happy now? Have you had sex as a woman? The questions continue, meeting after meeting, only the faces change. They see you as you are now, not as the confused androgynous person you once were. The ones who eagerly confronted you the last time, now hover in the background, devoid of further questions. Nothing has changed in their lives. And there are those stronger pre-ops who boast proudly of their intentions to retain most, if not all of their masculine interests after they get their surgery. After a while, you learn to nod and smile outwardly, but inwardly you smile somewhat painfully, in full understanding that they will refuse to listen to you if you tell them otherwise. So, you tell them, wait and see. Maybe things will be different for you.

Dare you them that up to a third of the male-to-female post-op population discover latent lesbian feelings for one reason or another, and that most embrace it and the rest can't handle it? The answer for the latter is learning to cope, discovering religion and going back to what will be a parody of their former male selves, or at worst, suicide. In your trying to exhibit the personal sharing of emotional feelings, as you have learned is so characteristic of genetic females, and that feels so natural to you now, you tell some of the pre-ops you don't feel like a real woman yet, and they jump back in horror, as if they will catch it from you. And you notice that some leave skid marks. They hear but don't understand when you tell them that being a woman is something you've had to work at extremely hard, and while you are completely happy with the physical and emotional changes of your transition, you are continually working towards the goal of total femininity. Even genetic woman have to work at being feminine, but the pre-ops don't know that yet.

If the post-operative transsexual continues associating with a peer support group, it is usually not for self benefit. Everything that can be derived from such a group has been chosen, picked, absorbed and digested long ago and the best the post-op can offer to the group, is the benefit of his or her experiences encountered along the gender path. Some bask in the warm celebrity spot light status of merely being a post-op. The successful visible post-op is sometimes roped into a leadership role in the group, either through guilt, an inner need to pay a few dues or from unrelenting peer pressure. Apparent in such support groups are concentrations of pain and frustration from the pre-ops, the self assured confidence of those well along in their transitions, and the complaints of the post-ops who are either ugly as women or who have not adjusted to their new lives. Let us not forget the enviable situations of those other male-to-female post-ops who look better than you do, have acquired a higher level of total femininity, or who have a better paying job, a boyfriend or even a husband, and who continually let you know about it. And you face those few visible, and highly successful, female-to-male transsexuals, who almost always have a girlfriend or a wife. On top of all this are the reminders of what you lost, and of what you paid so dearly for, to get what you wanted out of what is left of your life.

There is a lot to be said in defense of the invisible transsexual, for Mary, Holly, Pollyanna and Lydia. They have a perfect right to be what they are, do what they do, to go their own way far from the turmoils of the gender pack they left behind, or perhaps never joined in the first place. They have earned the right to turn their backs on the rest of us, and to travel their chosen path for the rest of their lives. Perhaps some of the invisible transsexuals were always more feminine than the rest of us will ever be. Perhaps too, they were just a lot luckier than most, and maybe a lot smarter.

- END -

(Edited from the 'Inner View', published by Cross-Port, 2020 B Beechmont Ave, Box 150, Cincinnati, OH 45230)

THE TV'S WIFE

By
Heather Peerson

I was given a paper some months ago by the wife of one of our members titled "Women Married to Transvestites: Problems and Adjustments". It was written in 1986 by "Thomas Weinberg and Vern Bullough". Each month since, I have wanted to write something about that report but both time and space have prohibited it.

It is a research paper involving about 70 wives of transvestites. The ranges of age, length of marriage and the degree of cross- dressing vary greatly among those who have participated in the study. However, some common facts seem to come out.

To me, the first and most important fact is that the longer into the marriage that the wife found out about the husband's cross- dressing, the harder and less likely she was to accept it. Wives who found out later well into the marriage, generally felt betrayed, deceived, and a degree of guilt.

When, then, is the best time to tell a wife? The most obvious answer to me is before she is your wife. Entering a marriage and staying in it is difficult enough without entering with this kind of secret hidden from the other. Unfortunately, most men don't find this out, don't realize the importance of their cross-dressing, or are not willing to risk losing the woman they love for it until their second or third marriage. Even so, telling her before the marriage and her acceptance does not guarantee a happy long-lasting marriage. It only makes one less obstacle thecouple will have to face and overcome later in life.

What about those who are already married and their wives don't know? How and when can/should they be told? In the end, only you can make that decision. I can only share my feeling about it.

First, should she be told? I believe each person in a marriage has the right of full disclosure. I have often heard, "What she doesn't know, won't hurt me". That simply is not true. A secret of this magnitude kept from someone so close can become the cornerstone of a communications barrier. Not only can it build resentment in the person unable to share an important part of themselves, but it can

breed the feeling that as long as I am keeping one secret, what's one more. Soon there can be more secrets kept than there are things shared. Secrets, can be like parking tickets -- the long they are kept, the greater the penalty.

Second, how do I tell her? If you already have lines of communication built in your marriage, the "How" part will be easier. I suggest the first step is preparation. Get books and other information, especially articles and letters from other wives of cross-dressers. Read them yourself and have them ready should the occasion arise. Don't slant the information by getting only totally positive views. A person is more likely to identify with a letter in which the person writing speaks of problems to which the reader can relate. Your wife is more likely to feel that the woman who wrote the letter actually experienced the same thing she did. Second, look for opportunities. Watch for radio and television shows, and newspaper and magazine articles that talk about the problem. Use this chance to state your feeling that you don't see why these people should not be permitted to do what they do. LISTEN to her reaction to the show and to your comments. Get a feel for where she is and what you might be up against.

Have a picture in which you look your best, ready. This will allow you to present yourself without worry about how well you did your make-up and without breaking the conversation. It also affords her the ability to continue to talk to you without seeing you dressed should she find it more than she can handle. Under no circumstances should you rush in and dress just to show her or suddenly surprise her by being dressed when she comes home.

Lastly, have another cross-dresser and his supportive wife on call. There are a number of places that you can line up this kind of support and be ready to have them help out. This is a good idea even if you don't plan to tell your wife. She still could find out at any time.

Only you can determine the right time, but being prepared can help make a difference in her final acceptance. In the cases studied only 3% of the wives were given literature to read before they were told. It is not surprising that the most common reactions were confusion, surprise and shock.

- END -

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(Edited from the American Federation of Transsexuals Newsletter, Vol.1 No. 1, A.F.T., P.O. Box 9238, North Dartmouth, MA 02747)

THE FEAR OF BEING DISCOVERED

by
Karen Aldrich

One of the biggest problems facing individuals who have gender dysphoria is the fear of being discovered by relatives, friends, co-workers and the general public. From this f ear, many individuals lock themselves into their own little world, cutting themselves off from the enjoyment of a normal life. The general public has a misconception about gender dysphoria and its associated problems.

In many cases, the general public has not even heard of gender dysphoria. Most people have heard of transvestites or transsexuals and immediately associate those persons as being gay. The gender dysphoric individual may be justified in having fears, but locking him or herself in a closet is not a solution to the problem.

The most important thing an individual should do, is to find out exactly who and what they are in regards to their gender dysphoria. Are they a transvestite, transsexual or somewhere in the middle? The answer to this question can sometimes be assisted with the help of a qualified counselor. But the only person who can answer the question is the individual. Once the question is answered honestly and without doubts, the next question is how to resolve the problem.

For the persons who believe themselves to be transsexual and who plan to seek hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery, they still have to deal with the fears of being discovered. If they think it is possible to go through the gender transition from a closet and blend in with society after the surgery and have their fears magically vanish, they are not being realistic and honest about any of this. The surgery will not remove the fears of being discovered.

Prior to surgery, there is the fear that someone will discover their plan to have a sex change operation. Later and as a post-operative transsexual, there may be the fear that someone will uncover evidence of the former life, whether is was male or female. As a friend once put it, crossing the gender fence does not erase fears, they just become different ones.

The transsexual must learn to accept themselves for who they are. They must attempt to educate the people in their life about transsexuality and of the problems and costs that must be faced. If their situation is presented in a dignified and informative manner, many people will be understanding, but some will consider the transsexual to be emotionally ill in a derogatory manner.

This is the reality of it and one must live in this society to survive. Sacrifices will have to be made. Transsexuals have lost relatives and friends once their secret was out. The transsexual must learn to be a part of society and not hide from it. Most people live their lives the way they want and the transsexual should do the same. Anything less may result in lifelong unhappiness.

The transsexual shouldn't walk around with a self proclamatory sign, neither should they be ashamed of their transsexuality. As the song says from La Cage Aux Folles, "I am what I am..." The key here is in self acceptance and to exhibit an open, positive attitude. The fear of discovery may remain unless acceptance is learned. The sex reassignment surgery will not be the solution to fears, it could be a very big mistake.

- END -

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BULLETINS, NOTICES, NEWS

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS 1988 - 1989

APRIL 30, 1988 : 'Night Of A Thousand Gowns Casino Royale' A fund raising event for Gay Community charities, by the Imperial Court of NYC. The event will feature dining, entertainment, gambling, and a thousand gowns. $150 & $200 per person donation.

For an invitation and debutante's guide call (212) 222-2999 or write 1000 Gowns, 106 1/4 Lexington Ave, NYC, NY 10016

MAY 13, 14, 15, 1988: 'Spring 1988 Pocono Fantasy Festival'.

Costume party, all night parties, Miss Pocono Pageant, Miss Legs Contest. $195.00 per person, $365.00 male/female couples. Includes room, six meals, taxes, tips.

Joyce Dewhurst, 37-50 76th St, Jackson Heights, NY 11372 (718) 335-3048

MAY 1988: PAJARO DUNES OUTING.

A casual outing on the coast of Monterey, CA. Traditionally held the 3rd weekend of May.

Inquire for details.

Write: Joan Sheldon, P.O. Box 7205, San Jose, CA 95150-7205

MAY 15, 1988: 'FAIRYTALES', the Mr., Miss, Ms. Pageant.

Darcelle XV, 208 NW 3rd Ave., Portland, OR

MAY 30 - JUNE 6, 1988: 'PROVINCETOWN SPRING OUTING'.

Eighth annual outing sponsored by the Tiffany Club. The primary purpose is to have fun and enjoy P-town. Over 100 participants attend each year. There are parties, dinners, and, of course, P-town.

$100 per person, $150.00 per male/female couple. (Does not include accommodations.)

Contact: Laura Granger, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 358-2305 (Tues. eve. 7:30 - 10)

JUNE 9 - 12, 1988: 'BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE WEEKEND'.

Sixth annual 'Be All', co-sponsored by Chi Chapter, Paradise Club, Crossroads, and TransPitt. Averaging 190+ participants, it is the largest function of its kind. Includes a beauty course, workshops, parties, outings, dinners, etc.

Contact: Crossroads, Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135 Joanne (313) 385-5970 or Richelle (313) 792-9160 (between 7:30-10 p.m.)

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 1988: 'COUPLES OUTING'.

4th annual outing sponsored by the Tiffany Club Wives Support Group.

Held in beautiful Provincetown, MA., this is an outing for cross-dressers and their wives or significant others.

Couples only.

Contact: WSG, c/o P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 358-2305 (Tues. eve. 7:30-10)

OCTOBER 14-23, 1988: 'FANTASIA FAIR'.

14TH annual Fair held in Provincetown, MA. The Fair is a unique opportunity to live, learn and explore diverse aspects of alternative gender life styles. Learning, confidence, fun! Programs for spouses & girlfriends.

Fantasia Fair, Lincolnia Sta., P.O. Box 11254, Alexandria, VA 22312

FEBRUARY 23-25, 1989: The first annual "TEXAS 'T' PARTY".

A 3-day weekend 'en femme' at the beautiful Sheraton/Seven Oaks Resort in San Antonio, TX. $75 (not including accommodations).

Boulton & Park Society, P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252 (512) 657-2540

APRIL 4-9, 1989: 3rd annual 'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION.

To be held at the San Franciscan hotel in down town San Francisco.

'Coming Together' is sponsored by the International Foundation for Gender Education on behalf of the TV/TS Community as a whole, and those persons serving or affected by that Community. The Convention's objectives are to promote self-validation and self-respect, develop a sense of togetherness and provide an in-depth educational opportunity. (Tend to the business of the Community, and have fun doing it.)

'Coming Together', c/o I.F.G.E., P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 358-2305 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays)

I.F.G.E. PUBLICATIONS - REPRINTS

BACK ISSUES TV-TS TAPESTRY JOURNAL
Issues 47, 48, 49 & 50 (SOLD OUT)
Issues 40 to 46 $8.00 per copy
Issue 39 $ 6.00 per copy
Issue 37 $4.00 per copy
(# 33 - 36, & # 38 SOLD OUT) (Issues 1-32 were in newsletter form and are not available)

COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER '87 BOOK OF TRANSCRIPTS $10.00
Contains the keynote speeches of Dr. Virginia Prince and Dr. Roger Peo, and transcripts of every seminar, workshop, and rap group. A most important publication for serious minded persons.

DEFINITIONS $5.00
by Merissa Sherrill Lynn. An in-depth examination of primary terms ('transvestite', transsexual', etc.) and the econdary terms that affect our understanding of the primary terms. The emphasis is on communications rather than universally accepted definitions.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - RELIGION $5.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subject of cross-dressing and religion.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - TRANSSEXUALISM $10.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subjects of transsexualism and female-male crossdressing.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - WIVES & SIGNIFICANT OTHERS $10.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters of special interest to wives and significant others of crossdressers.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - HORMONES $5.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subject of hormones.

*** All proceeds from the sale of publications and reprints will be placed in I.F.G.E.'s Publications and Educational Resources fund.

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RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS WANTED

TSs (pre- and post-op), TGs and other persons who cross-live needed to complete anonymous survey questionnaire for data input into comprehensive TS manual. Please specify M-F or F-M.
Thanks!
Rupert Raj, Exec. Dir. Metamorphosis Foundation, P.O. Box 5963, Stn A, Toronto, ON CAN M5W 1P4

REQUEST FOR POSITIVE ACTION

On March 14, 1988, the New York Post published two articles, both written by Fredric Dicker, State Political Editor. The first was headlined, "TAX $$$ PAYING FOR MEN IN DRAG, State spends 100G to push gay way of life". The second was headlined, "CUOMO ORDERS 'DRAG' PROBE". The articles address themselves to a $7200 grant given to Mariette Pathy Allen by the New York Council on the Arts for a photographic exhibition and lecture series designed to encourage public education and acceptance of men who dress as women.

Mr. Dicker attacks Mariette, accuses her of 'promoting homosexuality' (Mariette's work does not promote sex of

any kind), and published her photos without her permission. Also, Mr. Dicker challenges the legitimacy of using public funds (set aside for public education) to educate the public about cross- dressing.

This kind of 'Yellow Press' is not only intolerable, it's inexcusable, and cannot be allowed to continue.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1.) Get this information to your club members as quickly as you can and encourage them to write to the Editor of the New York Post. Tell the Editor how important public education is, and point out his responsibility as a leader in the media to report the facts. Tell him what part of this country you live in, how many people are in your support group, and how far-reaching we are. Tell him we are among his readers, and there are many readers who do want to know and understand. The address is: Editor, New York Post, 210 South St, NYC, NY ... WRITE NOW!

2.) Send special thanks to the New York State Council on the Arts for recognizing Mariette Allen's work and its importance to our community by awarding her the $7200 grant.

3.) Write to Governor Cuomo in Albany.

4.) I.F.G.E. and ETVC have files documenting the support for Mariette's photographic work. Send copies of your letters to I.F.G.E. (Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778) and to ETVC (Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

(*** Mariette is currently filing a lawsuit against the NY Post for defamation of character and copyright infringement.)

(*** Editor's Note: At the '88 Convention we had a very productive 'Positive Action' workshop. We, as a community, must re-enforce those persons who help us, and challenge those who don't. If we don't take action we are going to continue to get hurt by the antagonism and downright stupidity of dangerous persons like Mr. Dicker.)

POETRY SUBMISSIONS WANTED!!!

Poems, Limericks, free verse sought for upcoming anthology of TS, TV, TG and AN verse. Over 167 pieces from 82 contributors received so far. Don't miss your chance to express yourself in this first volume. Please specify gender status, credit line.

Thanks!

Rupert Raj, Metamorphosis, Box 5963, Stn A, Toronto, ON CAN M5W 1P4

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The Boulton & Park Society announces the first annual 'TEXAS T-PARTY', a three day weekend 'en femme' to

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be held February 23, 24, 25, 1989, at the beautiful Sheraton/Seven Oaks Resort and Conference Center in San Antonio, TX.

Mary Frances Williams, co-coordinator for the event, stated that 'We are just in the initial planning stages, but want everyone to have plenty of time to make preparations. We expect to have an interesting mix of self improvement demonstrations, vendors of items of particular interest to us, perhaps a photo studio, a variety of outside activities, and time to just enjoy being a girl.

The $75 registration will include Saturday's luncheon and banquet, and a Texas style Sunday morning brunch. However, if paid in full by January 15th the registration will be $65, or $55 if paid by November 30.

Although Boulton & Park will not handle room registration, it's important that registrants mention B & P to get the special convention rate of $44.07 (inc. tax) per day for a 'double- double' or King with occupancy by up to four people. The management is fully aware of the nature of our group and welcomes the opportunity to serve our needs. The Seven Oaks features two swimming pools, one olympic size, a 9 hole par 3 golf course and 7 tennis courts. The plan is for our participants to be housed in an area which is near the meeting rooms and away from the main lobby.

Those wishing to attend, or vendors who would like to participate, should write: Boulton & Park Society, Attn: Janice Rupard, P.O. Box 169652 (T), San Antonio, TX 78280

METAMORPHOSIS MAGAZINE

For female-to-male transsexuals, helping professionals, and interested others. 24 pages: news, reviews, articles, letters, profiles, poems, ads. Subscription: $24 for five issues. Sample copy: $3.50. Rupert Raj, Editor, Metamorphosis Magazine, Box 5963, Stn A, Toronto, ON CAN M5W 1P4

SPEAKER'S HANDBOOK

Virginia Prince has written a comprehensive 'how to' manual for persons who are interested in public speaking. Although the publication was written primarily for Tri-Ess, Everyone presently making presentations whether to classes or on television will find it valuable. It is especially valuable to those who have not yet dared to try.

If you would like a copy, send $10 to: Virginia Prince, Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Merissa Sherrill Lynn and Christine Jorgennson at the 'Coming Together' Convention-Chicago, March 7, 1988

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN, CHRISTINE JORGENSEN HONORED

At the I.F.G.E. 'Coming Together' Convention recently held in Chicago, both Merissa and Christine received awards for their lifetime contributions on behalf of the TV/TS Community.

Merissa received the I.F.G.E. 'Virginia Prince' award. The Virginia Prince' award is given by I.F.G.E. to a person in recognition of and grateful appreciation of that person's contibution to the TV/TS Community. Merissa received the award on the basis of her 15 years of dedicated service, as founder of the Tiffany Club, founder and managing director of the 'TV-TS Tapestry', and as founder and director of I.F.G.E.

Christine receive a silver bowl in appreciation for her pioneering role in the recognition of the transsexual phenomena.

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICES

NEW ENGLAND

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION for GENDER EDUCATION: I.F.G.E., P.O.Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778617-358-2305 Merissa Sherrill Lynn Dir.

Nature: I.F.G.E. is a non-profit educational/service organization designed to serve as a communications medium, outreach device, and networking umbrella for the entire TV/TS Community, and those persons affected by and serving that Community.

Services: Currently I.F.G.E. Publishes 'the TV-TS Tapestry Journal' and other publications relevant to the TV/TS theme, and sponsors an annual international convention. I.F.G.E. is working on the development of affiliated chapters, an international information clearing house, speakers bureau, and an 800- number.

TV/TS TAPESTRY PUBLICATIONS: Tapestry, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-358-2305 Merissa Sherrill Lynn Dir.

Nature: Tapestry Publications is a division of I.F.G.E.

Services: The 'Tapestry' is our primary publication at this time. However, we are also working on transcripts, reprints, how-to books, directories, etc. Tapestry Publications is designed to be our community's own publishing company.

TIFFANY CLUB: Tiffany, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617)358-2305 Ms Katherine Stevens Pres.

Nature: The Northeast chapter of the International Foundation for Gender Education (see I.F.G.E.). Tiffany is anon-profit non-sexual organization offering education, friendship, and support.

Services: Tiffany provides a comprehensive program of services and activities including, but not limited to publishing the Rosebuds newsletter, a safe-house, casual get-togethers, workshops, seminars, beauty courses, a Wives/Significant Others support group, a TS support group, parties, nights on the town, referrals, speakers bureau, outings, etc.

Security: Tiffany welcomes all mature and responsible persons who will exercise good manners and common sense, and protect the security and peace-of-mind of all. If a person wishes to use Tiffany's facilities or attend a Tiffany function,that person must have met with and been cleared by a member of Tiffany's Screening Committee, or have a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure that the attendee understands Tiffany's objectives and will comply with Tiffany's security requirements and code of conduct.

TIFFANY CLUB WIVES SUPPORT GROUP: WSG, c/o P.O. Box 367,Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 358-2305 Sydney Tibbetts & Toini McDonald Co-Dir.

Nature: Affiliated with the Tiffany Club. For those in a committed relationship with members in good standing of the Tiffany Club.

Services: Monthly meetings, one-on-one support, outings, etc.

Security: See 'Tiffany Club'

THE OUTREACH INSTITUTE: Outreach, P.O. Box 386, Kenmore Sta., Boston, MA 02215

Nature: The Outreach Institute is a non-profit corporation whose purposes and objectives are educational. Outreach works predominantly with Helping Professionals from the fields of Education, Guidance & Counseling, Therapy, Medicine, Law & Law Enforcement, Nursing and Human Services.

Services: Outreach's programs include OPERN (Outreach Professional Evaluation and Referral Network). seminars & workshops, a newsletter, Fantasia Fair (a living/learning growth experience for crossdressers, transsexuals and androgynes both male and female), and a book and publication service. (Outreach's catalog of books and reprints is available for $5.00. Outreach also has two information packets, one for the F-M TS an done for the M-F TS, $25.00 each.)

Security: Outreach's programs are strictly non-sexual and sophisticated. All participants at any Outreach program are expected to act accordingly.

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TRANSSEXUALS: Karen Aldrich, P.O. Box 9238, North Dartmouth, MA 02747

Nature: Transsexual support.

Services: Group sessions, peer counseling, social events, newsletter, public education, personal needs, guest speakers, referrals.

GENDER INFORMATION SERVICES: P.O. Box 9238, North Dartmouth, MA 02747-9238

Nature: Information and referral service.

Services: Books and pamphlets for sale. Referral service (fee required).

TRANSUPPORT: TranSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101 Diana Obidowski, Pres.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their families and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings. Inquire for time and location.

THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB: The XX Club, Box 6070 Station 'A', Hartford CT 06106 Veronica Jean Brown Dir.

Nature: The XX Club is a non-profit, non-sexual, social- educational-medical-outreach organization for persons interested in transsexualism. Friends and relatives are also welcomed, as are all those interested or involved with the crossdressing community.

Services: The XX Club has a monthly newsletter, and holds 2 meetings each month (the 2nd and 4th Saturday at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St, Hartford). The meetings include educational and medical programs, outreach work and information distribution. We also have social get-togethers, club parties, etc.

Security: We place no security precautions on people who wish to subscribe to our newsletter. However, if an individual wishes to attend our meetings, that person must meet and be cleared by a member of our screening committee, or have a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure that the attendee understands the XX Club's objectives and goals and that the individual will comply with security requirements and code of conduct. We request that all who attend our functions or meetings respect our anonymity.

THE CONNECTICUT VIEW: c/o Denise Mason, P.O. Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460

Nature: 'The View' is non-profit and non-sexual but respectful of its members' sexual preferences. Its objectives are to promote and propagate the friendship of the TV/TS Community through education, support, and understanding of its members and their families.

Service: Punctual response to all communications, informative monthly newsletter, Wives Support Group, rap sessions, parties at various locations. Wig, makeup, clothing, and demeanor aids available. Costs shared by participants.

Security: None. House parties on an invitational basis, bar parties open. All members are required to be discreet and tolerant of each other. Common sense and courtesies prevail.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND GICNE, 68 Adelaide Rd, Manchester, CT 06040 The Reverend Clinton R. Jones, Dir. 203-646-8651

Service: Provides screening for pre-operative TS applicants desirous of hormone therapy. Provides screening for pre-operative TSs for sex reassignment surgery approval, who have met the requirements of the Harry Benjamin International Association on Gender Dysphoria Standards of Care.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY GENDER ALLIANCE: c/o Fem Fashions, Penthouse B, 157 W 57th St, New York, NY 10019 (212) 582-6823 Muriel Olive, Director

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members and friends of the TV/TS Community.

EULENSPIEGEL SOCIETY: The Eulenspiegel Society, Box 2783 Grand Central Sta., NYC, NY 10163 212-477-6588

Nature: For those with S/M & B/D fantasies. The oldest organization of its type.

Services: Frequent events specifically oriented for the TV. Inquire for times and location.

LAMBDA IOTA CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Lambda Iota, P.O. Box 8383, LongIsland City, NY 11101

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Service/Security: See 'Society for the Second Self', Tulare, CA.

LONG ISLAND FEMME EXPRESSION (LIFE): LIFE, P.O. Box 121, Ozone Park, NY 11416

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: Meetings twice monthly, newsletter, referrals.

Security: Applicant for membership must meet with two members of Board prior to attending meeting.

LONG ISLAND SOCIAL CLUB contact: Kay & Ursula Kwarta, 50 Sunny Rd, St. James, NY 11780 (516) 584-7736

Nature: Monthly dinner parties in a non-sexual atmosphere. A social gathering for crossdressers, transsexuals, their relatives & friends.

Services: Meetings on the 4th Saturday of each month. Bring your own bottle. A $10 charge includes a hot meal. Limited space available for dressing. Reservations necessary, so enough food for all is available.

Security: A phone call to Kay will usually suffice. No drugs or excessive alcohol will be tolerated. All guests are expected to conduct themselves as ladies & gentlemen.

SEX INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE U.S. (SIECUS) SIECUS, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011 SIECUS is affiliated with the Department of Health Education of the School of Education, Health, Nursing, and Arts Professions of New York University. SIECUS deals with all sexually related issues, including gender expression.

THE GATHERING: The Gathering, P.O. Box 21052, Columbus Circle Sta., NYC, NY 10023 additional information contact either: Jana L. Thompson, 201-342-6548, or: Renata L. White 203-869-3561

Nature: A self-help support group for transsexuals in the greater New York Metropolitan area.

Services: Meetings the 1st Sunday afternoon of each month to discuss common problems, (meeting sites vary - inquire first) hear helping professionals, share experiences and information, and enjoy a pleasant social experience. Objectives include the development of a network of peer counselors, distribution of pertinent literature, resource guides to institutions and services.

Security: Participation is open to all potential M-F and F-M pre-operative transsexuals, post-operative transsexuals, friends and relatives. Inquiry needed.

METAMORPHOSIS P.O. Box 6245, Broadway Station, Long Island City, NY, 11106 718-728-4615

Nature: Psychotherapy and counseling for persons with gender identity/expression related problems.

CONFIDE - PERSONAL COUNSELING SERVICES INC. Box 56,Tappan NY 10983, 914-359-8860 Garrett Oppenheim Dir.

Services: Confide is a private service offering counseling, therapy, hypnosis and hypnotherapy, with a large proportion of our practice dealing with gender problems. Private therapy sessions are held with Garrett Oppenheim PhD FIC, the director.

CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER - TRI ESS: See 'Chi Delta Mu' NJ/PA

TRANSGENDERISTS INDEPENDENCE CLUB (TGIC): TGIC, P.O. Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604 518-436-4513 5-10 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Saturdays

Nature: Non-sexual group offering friendship and support to crossdressers, transsexuals, significant others.

Services: Monthly parties, support group raps twice a month, newsletter, wives support raps, storage.

Security: We have set up a screening process to ensure the comfort and safety of all. You may feel assured of anonymity and our discretion.

ANDROGYNY UNLIMITED: P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 1-914-462-7455 Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. Dir.

Nature: Androgyny Unlimited is a private service that provides counseling, research, education and supporting

Services: Individual counseling is provided by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. a board-certified sexologist, primarily for the transvestite/cross-dresser and/or his partner. Counseling is also provided for persons who are trying to determine if they are cross-dressers or transsexuals. Referrals will be made where appropriate. Make-up and shopping services for clients are also available. Classes, seminars and workshops on transgender issues and human sexuality are provided both for college and graduate level students and for other groups. Ongoing research is conducted on a variety of topics in the transgender field.

Security: Appointments for counseling and allied services can be made by writing to Dr. Peo at the above address or by phone.

THE BUTTERFLY GROUP, Box 7161, Endicott, NY 13760 Shannon Micheals, President 607-798-8033

Nature: The Butterfly group is a non-profit, non-sexual social/educational organization for persons interested in crossdressing, for transsexual persons, and for relatives and friends.

Services: We have social get-togethers, a Couples Club,and a small network of professional and para-professionals, social workers, medical practitioners, beauty consultants, and clothing retailers who are interested and very helpful to us.

Security: Butterfly has no major security requirements,but we do require persons desiring to attend our meetings to be screened by our membership chairperson or other appointed member, or have a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure understanding and compliance with our code of conduct.

'EON', (Expressing Our Nature): PO Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031

Nature: EON is a non-profit, non-sexual, social and educational peer support group. It is comprised mainly of couples in a committed relationship, where one is a cross-dresser.

Services: We offer monthly social get-togethers in a pleasant atmosphere at one of our member's home. We also have non-dress discussion groups for our couples and friends. We have shops available that cater to our members. We also have a very active wives support group.

Security: EON requires a screening by a member of their screening committee prior to invitation as a guest. If you would like to be a guest please contact us through our P.O. Box. We welcome all mature and responsible people who enjoy the company of friends who share a common interest. We emphasize good manners, lady-like behavior, friendship, support, and security for all.

TRANSVESTITES ANONYMOUS (TVA): TVA, P.O. Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692, (716) 723-1698

Nature: TVA is a non-profit support group currently consisting of app. 30 members and growing. At present we do not have yearly dues, and is run on donations by the membership.

Services: We publish a monthly newsletter for the membership, and meet the 3rd Tues of each month.

Security: We have a screening person who will meet with prospective members. We also control the membership list for security reasons.

NEW JERSEY PENNSYLVANIA

CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Chi Delta Mu, P.O. Box327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762 (201) 663-0772

Nature: See 'Society for the Second Self'.

Services: Get-togethers the 2nd Saturday of each month in either Northern New Jersey or Southern Westchester County NY. Very interested in attracting wives and girl friends. We have over 75 paid members, and have been in existence for over four years.

Security: Private interview with Chapter President or qualified member.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: Ms Lynda Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960 (201) 663-0772 Nature: Open membership, non-sexual

Services: Get-togethers the last Saturday of each month at various locations in Northern NJ.

Security: Interview required.

SIGMA NU RHO CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Dorothy G., Box 467, Oakhurst, NJ 07755

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

PHI CHAPTER: c/o D. Beeman, P.O. Box 2512, West Chester, PA 19380

Nature: Open membership, non-sexual social organization.

Services: Get-togethers on the 4th Saturday of each month in Cherry Hill, NJ. We are very interested in having wives and girl friends attend our meetings.

Security: Phi places emphasis on security to all. Membership is offered to those by referral of a club officer, a member in good standing, or by contacting the chapter for same.

EN FEMME MAGAZINE: En Femme Magazine, P.O. Box 7854, Trenton, NJ 08628

Nature: Non-sexual publication dealing with all aspects of the transvestite, transsexual, and female impersonator done in a tasteful, dignified manner.

Services: Articles, stories, interviews, artwork, photos, classifieds.

THE JERSEY SHORE SYSTEM: Ocean County NJ 609-693-8849 300/1200baud

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service

Services: Log on using the name APRIL MAY with a password of FRIENDS (in all caps). This will get you into a sub-board of the main system. After you have logged on as above you may register the name of your choice for future systems.

TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP of PHILADELPHIA: TS Support Group,P.O. Box 15836, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Nancy Ann Forrest, Dir.

Nature: A non-profit non-political support group for people who are, have been, or think they may be transsexual. The purpose of the group is to ease the loneliness, the feeling of uniqueness, and to provide hope through open-mindedness on a common ground of mutual respect. The thrust of the group is geared toward the whole person, not simply their sex or gender, but rather all aspects - physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual.

Services: Our group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at Dignity House, 252 South 12th St, Philadelphia. We have raps, workshops, etc. No dues or fees, supported solely by donations and no person is turned away due to inability to pay, or affectional status.

RENAISSANCE, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Nature: Renaissance is a non-profit, non-sexual social/support/educational organization of individuals who share the desire and need to crossdress, and for their significant others. It is a group that accepts, without judgment, and helps the individual to grow at their own pace.

Services: Meetings and educational programs for both members and for the professional community.

Security: Inquire

TRANSPITT, Box 59406, Pittsburgh, PA 15211 Sheila Kirk, Pres.

Nature: TransPitt is a non-profit non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.

Services: Meetings the third Saturday of each odd numbered month. Referrals.

Security: Meeting with Club officer.

MID-ATLANTIC, SOUTHEAST

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON: R. Lewis, P.O. Box80724, Washington, DC 20004-0724

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members and
friends of the TV/TS Community.

SEXOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.: H. Martin Malin, PhD, 4835 Del Ray Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814

Nature: Counseling for transgendered persons.

JANUS/DC: c/o Dr. H. Martin Malin, 4835 Del Ray Ave, Bathesda, MD 20814
Nature: Transsexual support

ACADEMY AWARDS of WASHINGTON DC, 5104 South 11th st, Arlington, VA 22202
Nature: Theatrical drag, with an emphasis on the performing arts.

DELTA CHI CHAPTER: Box 11254 Lincolnia Sta., Alexandria, VA 22312
Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TS's, and their significant others.
Services: Social activities, meetings once a month.
Security: Inquiry needed.

BUTTERFLY COUPLES of NOVA, P.O. Box 3234, Manassas, VA 22110
Nature: Social/support group for TV's, TS's, and their significant others. An emphasis on people in committed relationships.
Services: Social activities
Security: Inquire

NORFOLK TS GROUP: Donna Johnston, Box 1923, Norfolk, VA 23501
Nature: Transsexual support

PASSING FANCY: Alexandria, VA 703-765-6290 300/1200/2400 baud
Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. Two sections, public and private. The private section is available to subscribers only. Answer the "System ID" prompt with "FANCY" to gain access to the public section.

THE MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION, INC.: Gender Dysphoric Association, PO Box 33311, Decatur, GA 30033
Nature: Strictly a support group for male and female pre- and post-op transsexuals. No fees.
Services: Referrals, rap sessions, and programs designed for the needs of the transsexual.

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE: P.O. Box 16314, Atlanta, GA 30321
Nature: A newsletter written by and about transsexuals.
$2.00 per copy, $12.00 per year.

SIGMA EPSILON CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Sigma Epsilon, P.O. Box 724222, Atlanta, GA 30339
Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.
Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

SATURDAY'S LADIES: c/o Renee Rodgers, P.O. Box 81683, Atlanta, GA 30336
Nature: Saturday's Ladies is a non-profit, non-sexual social/educational organization for crossdressers. We would like to exchange newsletters with other organizations.
Services: Bi-monthly newsletter ('Scene And Heard'), regular meeting 3rd Saturday each month plus additional formal and casual activities.
Security: A personal interview before attending the first meeting, or a letter of introduction from any sister organization. Guests are always welcome when visiting our great city.

SERENITY: c/o Nikki Bee, PO Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022
Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TS'S, and their significant others.
Services: Monthly meetings and newsletter.
Security: Inquire

CENTRAL FLORIDA SISTERS: Dale Larson, 107 Morelia Lane, Kissimmee, FL 32743
Nature: Non-profit non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals and their significant others.
Services: Meetings 1st Saturday of each month.
Security: Screening before attendance. Good manners and common sense.

GIAD: GIAD, P.O. Box 76234, St. Petersberg, FL 33734-6234 Alex
Haggblom, Dir.
Nature: A relatively new group of individuals dealing with gender dysphoria.

BUTTERNUT BELLES (AND BOYS) Box 3585, Knoxville, TN 37917, call: Wendy 524-1629 (between 7 and 9 p.m.)
Nature: Open non-sexual social/support group. We welcome straight, gay, TV, TS, wives and significant others. Our membership is scattered over four states.
Services: Right now our services are pretty much restricted to informal rap groups, but we are growing.
Security: Inquire

MID-WEST, SOUTH-CENTRAL

PARADISE CLUB: Paradise, P.O. Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129
Nature: Paradise is a non-profit non-sexual social organization with an emphasis on friendship and support (especially for wives). Paradise has approximately 90 members with an average of 50+ in attendance at each meeting.
Services: Paradise publishes a newsletter (Paradise Tales), and every other month sponsors a meeting with a

catered dinner, and usually a special function such as a speaker, make-up advice, a show, etc. Paradise also sponsors informal socials during the months between regular meetings.

Security: Paradise welcomes all mature and responsible people, and places an emphasis on good manners, common sense, and the security of all. Membership is offered only after a personal interview with an officer. Non-members may attend meetings, with concurrence of officer. Open membership, but all members must be crossdressers, and must dress at meetings.

ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER - TRI ESS: (formerly Genesis) Alpha Omega,P.O. Box 954, Elyria, OH 44036 (Attn: Jill)

Nature: A social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their families.

Services: Bi-monthly meetings, publish 'Alpha Omega Outreach' newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance at a meeting requires an interview with a qualified Alpha Omega officer.

CROSS-PORT: (Attn: Heather), 2020 "B" Beechmont Ave, P.O. Box 150, Cincinnati, OH 45230

Nature: CROSS-PORT is a non-profit non-sexual organization for the male-to-female and female-to-male crossdresser and transsexual, and supportive friends, regardless of their sexual preference, practices, or orientation.

Services: CROSS-PORT publishes a monthly newsletter which is distributed to all it's members.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves as ladies & gentlemen. Common sense is the rule. The mailing and membership lists are confidential. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number or profession of another member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON (TIP): 'TIP', c/o M.J. Ashford (Pres.),1479 Collins Ave, Marysville, OH 43040

Nature: A newsletter network for transsexual inmates in the United States and Canada.

INDIANA CROSSDRESSERS SOCIETY (IOTA CHI SIGMA): IXE, P.O. Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46220

Nature: Non-profit TV/TS social/support group.

Services: We currently have about 20 members from around Indiana and have been meeting monthly in Indianapolis.

Security: Inquire

CROSSROADS CHAPTER: Crossroads, P.O. Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135 Milesa Phar, President

Nature: Crossroads is a non-profit non-sexual social organization emphasizing friendship and support and the peace of mind of all. Crossroads has a formal membership of approximately 90 and an informal membership of approximately 250.

Services: Crossroads publishes a newsletter (Crossroads Chatter), and sponsors both formal and casual social activities. Crossroads provides referrals to other organizations nationwide, and helping professionals in the Great Lake area. Crossroads also investigates agencies, businesses and organizations, and does considerable outreach work and publicity for the paraculture.

Security: Crossroads welcomes all mature and responsible people, and places an emphasis on good manners, common sense, and the security of all.

NATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ORGANIZATION and SUPPORT GROUP (N.G.D.O.): N.G.D.O., P.O. Box 02732, Detroit, MI 48202 313-842-5258, Justina Williams,Pres.

Nature: N.G.D.O. is a non-profit organization serving gender dysphoria victims and crossdressers. It is a 'crossover' organization into the general public.

Services: N.G.D.O. publishes a newsletter ('N.G.D.O.-Key To Freedom'), and sponsors support groups for gender dysphoric persons, crossdressers and parents. N.G.D.O. also sponsors bible reading groups, a speaker bureau, and conventions.

CHICAGO GENDER SOCIETY: C.G.S., P.O. Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657 Mr. David Maxwell, President (312) 231-8923

Nature: Non-profit social organization for crossdressers,transsexuals, friends.

Security: Inquire

CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Chi Chapter/Tri-Ess, P.O. Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040 (312) 364-9514

Nature: Chicago chapter of the Society for the Second Self, a non-profit organization for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services: Social activities, support group for wives and girl friends, a helpline, newsletter, library, speakers bureau, and co-sponsor of 'Be All You Want To Be' weekend. Security: Membership is open to heterosexual TVs only. Attendance requires an interview with the chapter president or
older member to insure they are heterosexual and will comply with the Tri Ess code of conduct.

THE CROSSDRESSER'S BUREAU: G. Wright, P.O. Box 172, Gurnee, IL 60031

Nature: Newsletter

Services: The definitive information source for news on and about cross-dressers and crossdressing in the Chicago land area as well as articles and information of interest to all. This monthly publication is now available through subscription to anywhere in the U.S. and Canada. Six issues for $6.00, twelve issues for $10.00

WISCONSIN NETWORK The Network, P.O. Box 632, Waukesha, WI 53187 (414) 542-5735 (3-9 p.m.)

Nature: The Network prefers to deal with people from

a variety of life-styles (gay and bi- men and women, TVs, TS'S,etc.) who are looking for long term relationships or help in developing relationships with others or with the family, friends,or other significant people in one's life.

Services: The Network includes a monthly newsletter, meetings monthly for gay men and women, bisexual men and women,and TVs and TS'S. The Network also provides a monthly newsletter, social gatherings for special events, and a dating service.

PROGRAM IN HUMAN SEXUALITY 2630 University Ave, S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414 Dr. Eli Coleman, Dir.

Services: Details not available at this time.

CITY OF LAKES CROSS-DRESSERS CLUB (CLCC): CLCC, P.O. Box 16265, Minneapolis, MN 55416

Nature: Monthly meetings. The group's purpose is to provide a comfortable social setting for cross-dressers to meet like-minded folks. We are a non-sexual group when together, however personal orientation of individual members is not considered when newcomers apply to join us.

Security: A personal interview before coming to the first party.

SCD PUBLISHING: C/O Nancy Lawson, P.O. Box6322, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Services: Publishes a bi-monthly magazine, the 'TV/TS Talk', for members and supporters of the TV/TS community. Modeled after the Penthouse Forum, the 'TV/TS Talk' deals exclusively with gender related issues. $3.50 per issue, $21.00per year.

CAROLYN'S CLOSET: Minneapolis, MN 612-452-2676 300/1200 baud

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board. Totally free. A very nice friendly board with some very good user written fiction and stories.

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY FEMMES: SLGF, P.O. Box 1262, St Louis, MO 63188

Nature: A social/support group for the TV/TS Community and interested professionals. Providing members an opportunity to dress at meetings, share experiences, improve feminine abilities and give each other the support we all need. Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each even numbered month.

Services: A bi-monthly newsletter, the 'Gateway Femmes Gazette', club business cards, membership directory. Meetings the 3rd Saturday of each even numbered month.

CROSSDRESSERS AND FRIENDS (C.A.F.): (Kansas City area) C.A.F., P.O. Box 1154, Belton, MO 64012

Nature: Non-profit support group. Inquire for additional details.

CLUB GEMINI: Club Gemini, 418 Linn St, Leavenworth, KS 66048 Rebecca Gail Croslove, Dir.

Nature: A newly formed non-sexual social support group for TVs and TSs.

Services: Meetings, peer support, information exchange.

Security: The privacy and confidentiality of all members are carefully protected. Members are screened before attending a meeting.

RHO CHI RHO (RIVER CITY) CHAPTER TRI-ESS: River City, P.O. Box 24060, Omaha, NB 68124-0060

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self', Tulare, CA

TRI DELTA CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Tri Delta, P.O. Box 533, Richmond,TX 77469

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with the chapter president.

DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Delta Omega, c/o Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: The Dallas chapter of Tri Ess. Social, for heterosexual TVs and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, publish the 'DFW New Missies' newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with a chapter officer.

BOULTON & PARK SOCIETY Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252 512-657-2540 (live Tues 7-10 p.m., machine all other times)

Nature: Open, non-profit, non-sexual. Social and peer support and local information for transsexual, transvestic and
transgendered folks, their families and friends.

Services: Meetings, newsletter 'Gender Euphoria', business directory, outreach to helping professionals plus a national
outreach program to individuals referred to us.

Security: You are expected to be mature enough to exist with others in social situations and exercise good manners and common sense in protecting the security and peace of mind of all. Before attending your first soiree you must meet with a designated member. If we aren't comfortable with you, you won't be invited to attend.

THE ATHENA SOCIETY: The Athena Society, P.O. Box 65026, San Antonio, TX 78265 Denise J. Griffiths, Pres.

Nature: Transsexual support

Services: Meetings 3rd Saturday of each month, directory of services for San Antonio area, a referral system.

Security: We are very security conscious, and will not

release names to anyone.

INTER-MOUNTAIN, SOUTHWEST

GENDER IDENTITY CENTER OF COLORADO, INC. (G.I.C.): P.O. Box 11563, 3715 32nd Ave, Denver, CO. 80211 (303) 458-5378

Nature: G.I.C. is a non-profit, tax exempt, educational and affiliative organization designed to provide a public service to the community.

Services: G.I.C. provides information and education on the issues of cross-dressing and gender conflict through a library of books and journal articles, rap sessions, workshops and seminars, and guest speakers from various areas of the community including medical, legal, insurance, personal grooming, male and female appearance and behaviors, etc. G.I.C. also provides a Speaker's Bureau, and a 24 hour Hot-Line.

DELTA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: (Denver) Delta Chapter, c/o Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self",Tulare, CA

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: Tomye Kelley, M.A., 8972 Oberon Rd, Arvada, CO (303) 420-9885

Nature: Private practice limited to work with cross dresser and gender conflicted and their significant others.

Services: Private one-on-one psychotherapy, weekly support groups, process groups for those in or preparing for transition. Also, a professional Speaker's Forum.

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER, Colorado Office: 406 First National Bank Bldg, Box 402, Trinidad, CO 81082 Marsha Botzer, President, 206-281-0943 (in Washington State)

Nature: See I.G.C., Seattle, WA.

GENDER IDENTITY COMMITTEE Department of Psychiatry, University of Utah, College of Medicine, 50 North Medical Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84132 (801)581-7951 Dr. Nyla J. Cole, MD

Services: Details not available at this time.

A ROSE: A Rose, P.O. Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261

Nature: A non-sexual support group for TVs, wives,friends, and relatives.

ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Alpha Zeta, P.O. Box 8425, Mesa, AZ 85204

Nature: A support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, monthly meetings.

Security: Before attending, an interview with a chapter officer required.

TRANSITION CLUB: Transition Club, P.O. Box 14113, Las vegas, NV 89114-4113 702-369-6020 (ask for 'TC')

Nature: Private club for transsapiens who are transvestite, pre-op transsexual, & cross-dressers.

Services: Gatherings held at a private unpublished location. Friendship, companionship, recreation, business,travel, etc. etc. etc..... Newsletter.

Security: High regards for discretion.

T.S. SUPPORT: T.S. Support, 3955 Swenson Box 45, Las Vegas, NV 89119 702-737-0393 AFTER 3:00 p.m. on SUNDAYS ONLY! (ask for Cheryl)

Nature: Support group for transsexuals, their families and friends.

Services: Information and referrals in areas of psychiatry, psychology, endocrinology, and genital-cosmetic surgery. Meetings 3rd week of each month at 7 p.m. PST (inquire for day and location).

CALIFORNIA

NEUTRAL CORNER: Neutral Corner, P.O. Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112

Nature: Neutral Corner is a self-help group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their families. Its purpose is to help its members live a normal and productive life.

Services: Serving San Diego County with social and educational programs, a communication network, monthly meetings, membership consulting, wives' and families' input, a buyers' guide, and a list of helping professionals.

Security: Inquire

POWDER PUFF OF CALIFORNIA (PP0C): c/o Judy Scott, P.O. Box 1162, Brea, CA 92622 714-255-1722 (5:00 - 9:00 p.m. ONLY)

Nature: Open non-sexual social club for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Interview by club officer.

FEMININE IMAGE: c/o Alicia, P.O. Box 1771, Ontario, CA 92345 619-244-4481

Nature: TV-TS club offering support, friendship and problem solving regardless of your sexual preferences or practices.

Services: Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Social activities and group outings. Novices welcome.

Security: High regard for discretion

CROSSDRESSER HETEROSEXUAL INTERSOCIAL CLUB (CHIC) CHIC, Box 562, Duarte CA 91010 Information/Speakers Bureau Telephone Number 714-993-7142

Nature: CHIC is for heterosexual transvestites or crossdressers only, wives, professional people (MDs, psychologists, teachers, etc.), and friends. We are a local Southern California organization. We offer support and friendship, and stress security and good manners.

Services: CHIC sponsors meetings, parties, monthly dinners, and seminars on make-up, wigs, clothes, etc. CHIC publishes a monthly newsletter (CHIC Clippings), and sponsors educational programs for the public.

Security: CHIC meetings are closed - members only and approved guests. All guests must be screened and approved by two Board members as well as the hostess if a home meeting. Prospective members must apply with a written application, be interviewed by two members of the membership committee and then approved by the Board of Directors. CHIC emphasizes strict security for all its members and guests.

NATIONAL GENDER PROJECT Box 126, Northridge, CA 91328 Dr.Richard F. Docter, Dir.

Nature: Research in the TV-TS phenomena

ALPHA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: c/o Virginia Prince, P.O. Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036 213-876-6141

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self",Tulare, CA

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM of Orange County, Inc.: 31815 Camino Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 (714) 661-7332

Nature: A comprehensive program for gender dysphoric persons. Our program is one of many options available. It is a composite of evaluative ant treatment techniques developed over the years by the more successful gender programs, which permits extensive screening and interaction with the patient at minimum cost, integration of the patient into the mainstream of society.

Services: Our program is structured to permit the patient to explore alternatives to sex reassignment while providing an effective support mechanism during transition. Our program is a 4-block procedure consisting of intake, transition/support, surgery approval/disapproval, and follow-up.

OMEGA CHI TRI-ESS: (Orange County, CA) Omega, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92802

Nature: Social Support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES: P.O. Box 184, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184 714-496-5227

Nature: J2CP provides information/referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and JANUS Information Facility.

Services: J2CP provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning gender dysphoria syndrome, TVism and TSism. This info package is available at a cost of $25.00 to cover research, printing, postage and secretarial services. Also, J2CP will provide referrals to reputable counselors, psychotherapists, or gender programs, and peer groups near your home. Certified checks or money orders should be made payable to: J2CP Information Services. Specify whether you are M-F, F-M, or TV. If TS please provide your place of birth.

CHI TAU - TRI-ESS: (Tulare area) c/o Tri Ess, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: Tri Ess is a non-profit organization exclusively for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Services: Tri Ess provides a correspondence directory, of commercial services, a magazine (The Femme Mirror), and chapters throughout the U.S.

Security: Membership in Tri Ess is open to heterosexual TVs only. Membership and attendance at a local chapter meeting requires an interview with the chapter president or older member to insure they are heterosexual and will comply with the Tri Ess code of conduct.

RAINBOW GENDER ASSOCIATION: P.O. Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170

Nature: Formerly San Jose Chapter, GGA. Non-profit non-sexual social/support group for TVs, TS'S, and their significant others regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

Services: Our objective is to provide a safe and welcome place for male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals, transvestites, and their significant others to get together with like-minded individuals. Attendance at RGA functions is open to all interested persons regardless of gender. We also promote the growth and development of RGA members as complete men and women through emotional support and education. We reach out to all transsexuals and transvestites in an effort to help them accept and make peace with themselves. Newsletter, social activities,peer support, educational programs, outreach work, public education. Visitors welcome.

THURSDAY IRREGULARS: Joan Sheldon, P.O. Box 7205, San Jose, CA 75150-7205

Nature: For nearly 7 years a group of TVs and their friends from the San Jose area have been meeting every Thursday for lunch. An informal discussion group and meeting of good friends. Participants come as their 'male' selves.

Security: The group is very security conscious, so inquire about requirements.

SANTA ROSA CHAPTER: 2525 Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401 707-526-2500

Nature: Formerly Santa Rosa Chapter, GGA. Social/support, open to all crossdressers, transsexuals, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings

Security: Prior to attendance, a meeting with a chapter officer.

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER: Bonnie Goodwin, Box 38918, Sacramento, CA 95838

Nature: Formerly Sacramento Chapter, GGA. Social/Support, open to all crossdressers, transsexuals, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings

Security: Prior to attendance, a meeting with a chapter officer.

SOCIETY OF JANUS - SACRAMENTO GROUP: c/o Box 13852, Sacramento,CA 95853-3852

Nature: For persons interested in B&D

EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL (ETVC): ETVC, Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101

Nature: ETVC is a delightful group of TVs, TS'S, TGs, Significant Others, and friends. It is intended as a social and educational group, to meet and have a good time as well as help educate the public. ETVC is non-sexual, and has an open membership policy with approximately 165 members.

Services: ETVC publishes a bi-monthly newsletter ('he ETVC Newsletter'), provides a program of social and educational activities, and referrals.

Security: The mailing and membership lists are confidential. Only the officers are permitted access to either list, except in response to judicial process. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number or profession of another member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS SUPPORT (S.O.S.): S.O.S., c/o ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101

Nature: Affiliated with ETVC. An educational and support organization for the 'significant others' of crossdressers and transsexuals.

Services: Meetings, newsletter

Security: See ETVC

GENDER IDENTITY ANONYMOUS (GIA): No mailing address available, but meets every Thursday in the Science of Mind Room at 3255 Balboa Street (near 34th Ave), San Francisco.

Nature: A non-judgmental transgender support group.

FEMALE TO MALE TRANSSEXUAL GROUP: The Billy DeFrank Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, CA (408) 293-4525, or, Hal, (408) 293-2429

Nature: Female to Male transsexual support.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA GAY & LESBIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (SFBAGLHS): SFBAGLHS, P.O. Box 42126, San Francisco, CA 94142

Nature: Reference library for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons.

Services: Large periodical collection of Bay area and California titles preserved for research.

GENDER-NET: Oakland, California 415-763-5173 300/1200 baud

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board

Services: Two board sections, public and private. The private section is available to subscribers only. The oldest continuously run BBS dedicated to the TV/TS.

HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION (HBIGDA), 900 Welch Road #402, Stanford, CA 94304

Nature: A non-profit professional group with special interest in the area of gender dysphoria syndrome.

THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH, P.O. Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701 (415) 548-8283 Allanya Guenther, Executive Director

Nature: The Pacific Center is a private, non-profit agency funded by United Way, county revenue sharing funds, sliding scale fees, and contributions. The Center is dedicated to providing high-quality services to sexual minority people of all races, ages, and backgrounds.

Services: Educational services and outreach into the community at large. Speaker's Bureau. Counseling. Group meetings. Hot line (415)841-6224.

NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST GENDER ALLIANCE (N.W.G.A.): Box 4928, Portland OR 97208

Nature: N.W.G.A. is a non-profit non-sexual social organization serving the crossdressing community.

Services: The Northwest Chapter has at least one function each month. The days vary in order to allow all of our girls to attend as often as is possible. We also publish a monthly newsletter.

Security: Private interview with the chapter president.

SALMACIS: The Equalitarian Feminist Social Society,

PO Box 1604, Eugene, OR, 97440-1604 Sally Ann Douglas, Social Director, Leslie-Shawn Witham, Hypnotherapist 503-688-4282 (Sally Ann, 6 - 11 p.m. PST)

Nature: Salmacis is a social and service society devoted to the concept of equalitarian feminism; supporting all those who desire to become women, or are women.

Services: Direct telephone counselling, contact with others who have similar interests, contact with our central organization, contact with other organizations, personal growth workshops. Also, publishes "Femmes Together", and "the Equalitarian Feminist." The Salmacis Social Society meets the 3rd Monday of every month, 8 p.m. at the Riv, 39 W. 10th St.,Eugene, OR.

SALISHON, The Womyn's Information Network PO Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604 Leslie-Shawn Witham, Director

Nature: Salishon is a service and information network for womyn who perceive themselves living an alternative lifestyle. Services: The only femininity clinic for males and she-males that is run by a staff of professional women.

EMERALD CITY Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103 Janice Van Cleve, Secretary

Nature: The Emerald City is a non-profit non-sexual organization providing social and educational services for the transvestite community of Seattle and the Northwest. Promotes positive public image in the media, in the professions, and in the business community. Provides assistance and opportunities for public presentation as well as pleasant private parties and good friendships. Independent organization but works closely with Ingersoll Gender Center and the Seattle Counseling Service. Services: At least one function each month with updated listing of acceptable vendors and contacts to a wide variety of products and services. Monthly newsletter and educational services.

Security: Must be sponsored by an active, participating member or attend the TV/TS Support Group at the Seattle Counseling Service, and be accepted by an officer of the Emerald City. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

THE INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER 4604 Stone Way N., Seattle, WA 98103 Marsha Botzer, President, 206-281-0943

Nature: A non-profit organization serving the transsexual-transvestite community.

Services: Individual and group counseling, professional consultation to service providers, referrals, research, and public information presentation. Works closely with the Seattle Counseling Service.

NORTH AMERICAN TRANSVESTITE-TRANSSEXUAL TELEPHONE CONTACT SERVICE (NATTCS): NATTCS, 600 East Pine St., Seattle, WA (206) 329-TVTS Executive Director Philip Salem

Nature: The NATTCS' s primary function is to act as a direct dating service for TVs, TSs and admirers. The Service has over 6200 contacts nationwide. We cater to the discriminating pre-op and post-op and professional women who enjoy the company of professional men whose hobby is crossdressing. Services: The Contact Service provides a 24 hour hotline for TVs, TSs and admirers throughout the country. It also provides information gratis on plastic surgery, electrolysis, and hormone therapy.

SEATTLE COUNSELLING SERVICE 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 329-8707

Services: Counseling service for sexual minorities, weekly support group for TVs and TSs.

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER P.O. Box 3224, Honolulu, HI 96801-3224 (808) 926-1000

Services: Therapists, referrals, special support group for TVs and TSs.

CANADA

QUEBEC TRANSSEXUALS AID, INC. (A.T.Q. INC.): Viviane Belanger, 84 Boul. Des Allies, Quebec, Canada G1L 1Y2 418-648-1633

Nature: French speaking transsexual support.

Services: Meetings, medical referrals, etc.

METAMORPHOSIS FOUNDATION: P.O. Box 5963, Station 'A', Toronto, Ontario Canada M5W-1P4 416-532-5769 Rupert Raj, Exec. Dir.

Nature: Metamorphosis serves the Transsexual Community with an emphasis on the Female to Male transsexual (gender dysphoric male).

Services: To provide research and information relevant to the TS, to raise funds for research, to counsel the TS, to educate the professional, para-professional and lay public on gender and sexual dysphoria, to provide peer support, and work cooperatively with other clinics and support groups.

TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON, INC.: Office of Facilitator, Rupert Raj, P.O. Box 5963 Station A, Toronto, Ontario Canada M5W 1P4

Nature: A non-biased publication for transsexual and gay inmates, and those in the free world emphasizing medical needs, discrimination problems, case law.

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN TRANSSEXUALS (FACT): Box 291 Station 'A', Hamilton Ontario Canada L8N-3C8 416-529-7884 Susan Huxford, Dir.

Nature: FACT is a non-profit support organization for transsexuals, relatives and friends of transsexuals, professionals and para-professionals working in the field of

gender dysphoria and others prepared to support the aims of the Foundation.

Services: Information distribution concerning transsexualism. Publishes 'Gender Review', a periodical news sheet. Offers peer support and peer counselling. Organizes support groups across Canada wherever these are feasible and has area representatives wherever possible. Provides speakers on transsexualism to the mass media and others.

Security: No screening for members or subscribers to 'Gender Review'. Local groups establish their own security procedures.

GENDERSERVE Box 291, Station 'A', Hamilton Ontario Canada L8N-3C8416-529-7884 Susan Huxford, Dir.

Nature: Counselling education and research services,registered in Ontario as a proprietorship and operating as anon-profit organization serving TSs TVs and gender dysphoric people in general, homosexuals, wives, friends and relatives. Services for a nominal fee (to cover expenses). Inquiries by mail or phone. No collect calls. The proprietor has screened a number of professional organizations in the USA.

Services: Counselling in sexual matters for individuals and couples. Pastoral counselling if requested. Referrals. Initial counselling session (mail or telephone) free of charge. Lectures, radio/TV and other mass media interviews by arrangement. Group counselling and therapy by request. Publishes booklets and papers of a professional counselling nature (reviewed in SIECUS Report). Public education by articles, etc. for press release. Role- playing and simulation exercises.

TRANSITION SUPPORT: Transition Support, P.O. Box 6808 Station A, Toronto, ON MSW-1X6

Nature: Transsexual support

Services: Monthly meetings, newsletter

Security: Inquire

GREAT BRITAIN

BEAUMONTSOCIETY Box3084, London WC1N-3XX England

Nature: Beaumont is a non-profit non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Great Britain.

Services: Beaumont sponsors evening and weekend functions,provides counseling for TVs with problems, and a contact system for members. Beaumont also publishes two bi-
monthly magazines,"The Beaumont Bulletin" which contains editorial notices, personal ads, a shopping guide, regional news, etc., and "Beaumag" which contains fictional, biographical or autobiographical stories. Beaumont also provides a library, legal advice, and a liaison and referral to other organizations. Beaumont has a network of organizations throughout Great Britain,and affiliations world-wide.

Security: Private interview with a qualified member.

TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP: Yvonne Sinclair, The TV/TS Group, 2/4 French Place, London England E1 6JB (off Bateman's Row) 01-359-4868 (8-10 p.m. Fri., Sat.& Sun.)

Nature: The TV/TS Group is a Registered Charity, and a member of the NCVO (National Council of Voluntary Organizations). Primarily a social/support organization for crossdressers, transsexuals, families and friends.

Services: Private facilities with comfortable lounges,storage, lockers, social areas etc. Friendly and informal social evenings every Saturday and Sunday. A helpline (01-729-1466,Tues. & Weds. 10:30 am - 4:30 pm, Fri. 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Fri. &Sat. & Sun. 8:00 - 10:00 pm). 24-hour answering machines and information. Peer support for crossdressers, transsexuals, and significant others. Publish the 'Glad rag' and other informational publications.

Security: Inquire

SELF HELP ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSSEXUALS (SHAFT): SHAFT, 106 Barton Ave, Keyham, Plymouth England PL2 1NZ 0752 559939

Nature: Transsexual Support.

NEW TRANS ESSEX: New Trans Essex, P.O. Box 3, Basildon, Essex England SS14 1PT 0255-554158 (evenings 7:30 - 11:00 p.m.)

Nature: TV/TS social club

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of each month at the Kavorah Manor, club newsletter, helpline.

FRIENDS MERSEYSIDE 14 Colquitt St., Liverpool, England L1 4DE 051-708-0234

Nature: See 'Beaumont Society'

SCOTTISH TV/TS GROUP c/o SHRG 58a Broughton St., Edinburgh EH135A Scotland (031) 556-4049

GENDER TRANSIENT AFFINITY: (Isle of Wight) GTA, c/o Miss Phaedra Kelly, Flat 5 Afton Lodge, Freshwater, Isle of Wight UK of GB

Nature: A non-profit organization dedicated to helping any transgendered person in any way possible.

Services: A network of friends communicating by mail. A "Global Village Project", which is a collection of groups and organizations from around the world designed to "cement the bond of mutual respect and affinity between us", publishing news from around the world, travel routes between countries, etc. A museum & library.

EUROPE

TRANS-CCL Rev. Joseph Douce, Centre du Christ Liberateur, Minorites Sexuelles, TRANS-CCL, 3 Bis, rue Clairaut, 75017 Paris- France Tel.(1)226.70.48 (Rev. Douce speaks English)

Nature: TRANS-CCL is a non-profit social organization for sexual minorities, non-political, with Christian foundation, but also open to people with other convictions. We have a large section for transsexuals and transvestite, probably the largest one in Europe (about 500 contacts). We can provide legal,medical, psychological, pastoral and surgical help for transsexuals. We organize meetings, meals, etc... We have a large documentation on transsexuality. We can also provide all information available in Europe.

Services: A telephone help-line Mondays from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at (1) 627-4936. Meetings. Meals. Legal, medical, psychological and pastoral literature, and advisors.

FEMME TRAVESTIE 8023 Zurich, Switzerland Postfach 6788

Nature: Very active social group in Switzerland. Other details are unavailable at this time.

F.P.E. NORTHERN EUROPE: M.A. Postboks 192 DK2600, Glostrup, Denmark (Do not put F.P.E. on envelope)

Nature: See 'Beaumont Society'

ASSOCIATION BEAUMONT CONTINENTALE: Gaby Linsig, 2 Rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim, France

Nature: See 'Beaumont Society'

FOREIGN

ELIZABETH CLUB Ant Trading Co., Sakata Building, 1-12 Iwamoto-cho Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101, Japan (This address may be dated.)

Nature: The Elizabeth Club was established in 1979 for transsexuals, androgynes, and transgenderists. We are located in major centers such as Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya.

Services: We offer storage facilities for our members. We also have consultants available for helping members with make-up and dressing. There is a rental service of clothing, wigs, etc.for members. The Elizabeth Club also publishes a magazine called "Queen" every other month. The magazine serves as a source of information to members on activities and events in Japan.

THE SEAHORSE CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES - SYDNEY: The Secretary, P.O. Box 146, Ulladulla, New South Wales 2538 Australia

Nature: Seahorse Club is a non-profit social organization for transvestites and families. Seahorse welcomes new members, overseas visitors and offers support to those of us unable to emerge by means of affiliate membership.

Services: Seahorse distributes information on shopping, coming events, being femme by means of a monthly newsletter to members on a regular basis. Meetings provide friendship, beauty assistance, etc.

Security: Seahorse places strong emphasis on security for all members and requires screening of prospective members before attending meetings. However, no screening is required of affiliate members (who are not advised of the meeting places) unless they wish to become full members. Overseas members require screening in the same way and overseas visitors need to be either screened or have necessary accreditation from a similar organization (e.g. Beaumont Society, Tiffany's).

THE SEAHORSE CLUB OF VICTORIA (SCV): c/o GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, VICTORIA, 3001 Australia, Jan Baxter, President

Nature: SCV is the longest continuously active club in Australia. A non-profit non- sexual social/support organization for crossdressers and their families.

Services: Regularly publish the 'Seahorse Victoria Newsletter, social activities, outings, etc.

Security: Inquire

THE ELAINE BARRIE PROJECT (EBP): EBP, P.O. Box 405, Altona, Victoria 3018 Australia tele: 369-2613

Nature: A non-profit self help group for TVs and TSs, and are self funding and supporting.

Services: Monthly social meeting on a regular basis throughout the year. Education projects for the general public. A large reading and video library (non-pornographic). Guest speakers. Newsletter ('Nu-Scene).

Security: Almost anyone over the ate of 18 is welcome (TV, TS, helping pro, families, etc.). One factor takes precedence over all others - that the visitor or member behaves in a civilized manner and bears us no ill will.

NEW ZEALAND - HEDESTHIA: Hedesthia Central, P.O. Box 78-026, Grey Lynn, Auckland 2, New Zealand

Nature: Affiliated with the Beaumont Society

SOUTH AFRICA - THE PHOENIX SOCIETY: P.O. Box 375, Parow 7500,Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, Marlene Knoetze Pres.

Nature: Affiliated with the Beaumont Society, the Phoenix Society is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.

Services: Publishes 'Fanfare' magazine, actively trying to change attitudes towards TVs in South Africa. Creating support groups in major cities. Provides contacts.

Security: New members are 'sponsored' by full members. All lists are confidential.

PERSONAL LISTINGS

PERSONAL LISTINGS OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide a means of introduction, outreach, and communications for members of the International Foundation for Gender Education. (General Subscribers and Supporting Members are considered members of I.F.G.E.)

2.) To provide non-members with a source of support and communications.

3.) To provide the general public with a better understanding of the nature of the people who are members of the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community.

WHO MAY PLACE A PERSONAL LISTING:

To place a personal listing, you must be an up-to-date General Subscriber (or I.F.G.E. Supporting Member). As asubscriber your personal listing is free of charge for the duration of your subscription. Also, your mail will be forwarded at not cost to you.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A PERSONAL LISTING:

1.) If the address is given in the personal listing, write directly to that address.

2.) If there is no address given, follow these instructions exactly:

A.) Place your letter in an unstamped envelope.

B.) Pencil in the name, state prefix, and membership number (given at the bottom of the listing). (Be sure to use pencil so the name can be erased.)

C.) Include $1.00 (for postage and handling) for each piece to be forwarded.

D.) Place the letters to be forwarded inside another envelope, and mail to: TAPESTRY, P.O. BOX 367, WAYLAND, MA 01778

MASSACHUSETTS

AUDREY M (Eastern MA) 50
Member: Tiffany Club
MWM bi-TV, 52, 155, 5'10, nice, intelligent, well adjusted, sense of humor. Enjoys current events, music, sailing, photography, woodworking. Would like to have a few TV friends for casual get-togethers; freedom limited to weekdays 9-6.
Neil Moses, Box 66, Allston, MA 02134

JANICE H. (MA) 50
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: Fantasia Fair (4 times)
DWM hetero TV, 60, 5'6", 150, brown hair and blue eyes. A little on the quiet side, but makes friends easily. Doesn't smoke.
Interests: Eating out in a nice restaurant, loves country music, good movies, and dressing up. "Will answer all letters."
Janice H. (MA-0254)

PAULA RIORDAN (MA) 50
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Fantasia Fair
MWM hetero TV, 50s, 5'8", 160, soft spoken, easy going, friendly.
Interests: History, philosophy, religion, cosmetology, fashion, cooking and ballet. "I am happy being 'Paula', and I enjoy conversation & correspondence with friends I have met through the Tiffany Club and the Tapestry. Although opportunities are limited, I pass fairly well, & enjoy going out with friends."
Paula Riordan, c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

MARCIA JOHNSON (MA) 50
Attractive TV, 5'9", 140, 38
Interests: Jogging (finished Boston Marathon), golf, tennis, avid sports fan.
"I like to go shopping, party at clubs, and dine at fine restaurants. I'm friendly and outgoing. I would like to meet TVs, TSs who would enjoy dining out, dancing at clubs, and shopping at malls."
Marcia J (MA-0666)

JUDY LEIGH S. (N.E. MA) 50
Member: Tiffany Club
Married TV, 47, 5'4", pleasant, shy. "I enjoy all sports & travel & dance music, plus

Janice H. (MA-0254)

just having a good time with good friends. I like to get dressed & go for rides to visit other friends."

Judy S., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

ROXANNE (RUSTY) GRANT (E MA) 50

SWM, 5'8", 33, slim, likes dressing but doesn't pass well. Quiet, private, discrete, intelligent, honest.

Interests: Music, dance, good fun and good friends. Enjoys sexy clothing & nylons. Enjoys sports, reading. "I would like to meet other TVs or TSs for friendship. Not interested in short term friends. Would like help with make-up and someone to have discrete talks with."

R. Grant, P.O. Box 161, Harwich, MA 02645

SUSAN A. (SE MA) 48

MWM TV, 30's, 5'7", 140.

Interests: Collecting and wearing all kinds of lingerie, TV literature. Would like to meet others with similar interests. "I've been kind of away from the TV scene for a while, but am hoping to get active again soon.

Susan A. (MA-0064)

JULIE COOK (E. MA) 48

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Convention

SWM, 38,5'9", 150, brown hair & eyes. Interests: Camping, movies, rock music, and improving my feminine image. "I would like to meet others with mutual feminine interests."

Julie Cook, P.O. Box 801, Marlboro, MA 01752

SUE FANON (W. MA) 48

SWM TV, 30, 5'10", slim, loving, and sincere. Interests: Dressing up & being feminine, makeup, travel. "I'm new, easy going, and would like to meet others that would like to help me pass in public."

Sue F. (MA-0983)

BRENDA H. (E. MA) 48

MWM TV, 35, 5'9", 170, shy. Enjoys dressing, shopping, movies, travel, slow dancing. "Due to circumstances, haven't been able to dress as often as I would like. I am now free to experience my desires. Would love to correspond with and possibly meet other TVs. could use advice and support."

Brenda H. (MA-0978)

MICHELLE LANGE (E. MA) 48

MWM 40, 6', brown hair and hazel eyes. Interests: Current events, sports, chess, household duties and everything feminine. Intelligent, professional, imaginative and daring person seeking a friendship with nice, caring, sincere person. "I am an avid collector of TV, domination and discipline stories, and would like to share them with a similar type person."

Boxholder, P.O. Box 1065, Burlington, MA 01803

JUDITH ANNE THOMPSON (SE MA) 48

Widowed WM crossdresser, 64, 175, intelligent, honest, retired. Good listener. Likes nature photography, hiking, gardening, good music, living as 'Judy'. "I would like contact with cross dressers in S.E. MA area for companionship,and like interests."

Judith T. (MA-0733)

SHARON P. (S.E. MA) 48

5'9", 175, shy, blue eyes, and very open. Enjoys anything soft and silky. "I love to find the real woman in me, and would like to hear from other bi TVs or TSs for support and friendship."

Sharon P. (MA-0592)

RHONDA SMITH (MA & CA) 48

5/6", 130, single, EXOTIC. Interests: Archery, atomics, lasers, professional photography, camping. "I'm the only girl to have 3-D holographic portrait commissioned. Been to Hollywood and personally know most of the X-rated girls (Sulka, Nikko, etc.)."

Rhonda S. (MA-0317)

LINDA LYNETTE DeMELLO (MA) 48

SWM pre-op TS, 5'6", 160, 35, brown hair, blue eyes, male appearance, female character. "I need friends to help me cope with rejection, and to understand me. I need personal hands-on help with learning how to achieve & project a feminine image. Please be sincere."

Linda D. (MA-1058)

SANDRA SCOTT (MA) 48

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Tiffany Spring Convention

SWM TV, brown eyes & hair, trim figure. Enjoys skiing, bowling, crafts, and dancing. Wishes to meet people, make new friends, and learn to be as much a lady as possible.

Sandra S. (MA-0544)

ELLIE KAY (MA) 48

DWM, 5'6", 53, quiet and lives alone. Pleasant personality. Interests: Model railroading, country music, and cross-dressing. Enjoys meeting people, and long rides & walks. "I'm new to cross-dressing, and really can use all the help I can get. Would love to meet and correspond with others of same interests."

Ellie K. (MA-1076)

MARCIA G. (MA) 49

Member: Tiffany

MWM hetero, 5'7", 43, full figured, dark complexion. Likes to dress, especially for formal occasions.

Marcia Gilbert, P.O. Box 632, Littleton, MA 01460

CHERYL LYNN M. (MA) 49

Member: Tiffany College student, 6', 22, with a pretty, slender figure.

Interests: Sports, music, acting. Also, sexy but tasteful feminine clothing, especially lace dresses and high heeled shoes. "I would like to pursue further in my lifestyle as Cheryl, and hope to make friends with other TVs & TSs."

Cheryl Lynn Michaels (MA-1157)

LORRAINE L. (E. MA) 49

Member: Seahorse Club Australia, Tiffany

English, 31, TV since 12, with strong TS desires, passes easily, married. "I want to meet TSs and TVs, and to be seen & treated as a woman."

Lorraine L. (MA-1156)

Rhonda Smith (MA-0317)

SUSAN ELIZABETH R. (MA) 49

SWM TV, 53, 6', 180, brown hair, hazel eyes. Interests: Photography, treasure hunting, 40's & 50's music, dogs, nature, & being a lady. "I would like to correspond with other girls in E. Mass., especially Metro-West area."

Susan Elizabeth R. (MA-0839)

BOBBI N. (E. MA) 49

SWM, 37, 5'9", 155 "I enjoy lingerie, nylons

Holly Cross

& sexy outfits. I have been interested in dressing since I was 12, but have not actively pursued until recently. would like to meet or correspond with TVs, females or couples who could provide help and guidance. Travel East, Midwest & West extensively."

Bobbi N. (MA-1203)

LISA C. (E. MA) 49

Bi-WM, 27, 22, 5'10". Enjoys skiing, camping, sailing, going shopping, dressing up. "I'm looking for someone to get me out of the closet. I also want to meet TVs & TSs for friendships."

Lisa C. (MA-1202)

CYNTHIA CRANE (SE MA) 49

MWM hetero crossdresser, 40, 6', sensitive and discrete. Interests: Computers, telecommunications, video tape, music, TV fantasies & bondage, tight clothing correspondence with others of like interests. "I love being dressed in nylon, satin, and leather. I would like to exchange books, fantasies, and thoughts about enforced crossdressing."

Cynthia C. (MA-0843)

SHARON Mc. (SE MA) 49

Member: Tiffany, FACT

Participant: Fantasia Fair

SWM TV/TS, 32, 5'11", 135, enjoys being feminine. Enjoys travel, skiing, all types music, old coins & cars. Would like to correspond with other TVs & TSs her age with same interests.

Sharon Mc. (MA-0504)

SUSAN C. (E. MA) 49

Member: Tri Ess Tall, slender, pleasant looking, novice cross-dresser with much to eagerly learn.

Interests: Cross-dressing (of course), movies, plays, reading, writing, soul-searching. "I would like to write to someone of similar interests & stage of X-dressing development, 'real women', & more advanced TVs & TSs. I would like to both learn & teach."

Susan C. (MA-1238)

VALERIE PARKER (E. MA) 49

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Fantasia Fair

Awards: 'Miss Cinderella'

41, 6', 140, separated. "As a man I wear women's clothes & make-up almost every day. My nails are long and painted, and usually wear earrings. At work I'm still treated like any other engineer. Although I can 'pass', my dream is to just be myself. I would love to meet other like-minded people, male or female, for mutual support and sharing."

Valerie Parker, PO Box 2217, Peabody, MA 01960

CHARISE MICHELLE S. (MA) 50

SWM, hetero, 33, 5'11", 160, fun loving, friendly, trustworthy, dyed in the wool feminist.

Interests: Advancing my femininity & the woman within. Enjoys movies (sci-fi, comedy, romantic, music (no hard rock), cooking, computers. "I am interested in making contacts in the TV/TS world. Will answer all. For those in E. MA. let's get together, cook up a storm & go see a movie."

Charise S. (MA-0427)

SYLVIA C. (MA) 50

Member: Tri Ess

6'2", grey haired dedicated cross-dresser.

Interests: Cross-dressing, enjoying status as a woman whenever possible. "I love makeup, fancy dresses, high heels, nylons, etc. Enjoy being a girl."

Sylvia C. (MA-0189)

HOLLY CROSS (MA) 50

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, IFGE Convention, Shangri-La, Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing

SWM TV, mid-60's. Lives alone except for a dog, four cars (one runs) a lot of VHF ham gear and about 200 size 20 outfits. Is fairly active, goes to many concerts dressed, and has been to over 15 outings. Looks like a proper Boston lady, and is having a 'hell' of a good time. "I try to answer all the interesting letters, but no guarantee."

Holly C., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

ROBIN E. OLSON (E. MA) 50

Pre-op TS, 28, blonde hair blue eyes. Enjoys tennis, skiing, horseback riding. Would like to hear from other TSs who are into the joy of womanhood. Needs friends for support in making the change totally.

Robin E. (MA-1353)

JACKIE G. (E. MA) 50

Member: Tiffany

40, 6', 170, blue eyes, brown hair, very interested in being feminine. A warm caring person that lives to be feminine. Size 16, good looking hopefully desirable.

Interests: Reading, snuggling, dressing up, music and more snuggling. Loves hosiery. "Want very much to share and give my femininity to someone. Willing to be guided. Hopefully my love for what I want to be will make me be a special woman for someone."

Jackie G. (MA-0275)

HEATHER DAWN ANDERSON (E. MA) 50

Member: Tiffany

MWM TV, 36, 5'11", 130, crossdressing since childhood. Interests: Music (rock to classical), song writing, cooking, running. "I want to let my femininity blossom. I'm sensitive and caring. I enjoy long walks on the seashore accompanied by intimate conversation and fun. I need some TV/TS companionship."

Heather A. (MA-0661)

LILA WALTON (W. MA) 50

5'9" blue-eyed blonde, but sometimes try darker hair. Interests: Literature, culture, psychology, history, but especially poetry, plays. Could become interested in acting and play production.

Lila W. (MA-1381)

AVA K. (E. MA) 50

TV, 27, 5'6", 135, attractive, outgoing artist. Open and unconservative. Interests: Playing/listening to music (punk rock, reb, old jazz). Other interests revolve around art and crossdressing. Only recently discovered TV/TS Community. Would like to meet other TVs for dressing, shopping, going out, friendship.

Ava K. (MA-1385)

DIANE G. (MA) 50

Bi-M TV, 33, 5'6", 160, brown hair & eyes. Seeking another like myself for friendship.

Diane G. (MA-1380)

STEPHENIE R. (E. MA) 50

MWM TV, 40, 5'11", 165, attractive. Enjoys film production, sailing, skiing, and of course all things feminine. "I'm just coming out and would love to share my dreams."

Stephenie R. (MA-1411)

JOANNA A. (E. MA) 50

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing

WM, 30, 5'8", 140, blue-eyed blonde, cute, well built, clean, healthy, discreet, nice manner.

Interests: Metaphysics. Has interests from A to Z, and would enjoy most everything with the right company. Not speedy on correspondence. Looking for intimate friendships, fun, excitement. Maybe an FI career, who knows! Phone, photos, SASE appreciated.
Joanna A. (MA-1430)

RISE CARMEN (E. MA) 51
MWM, 6', 57, and self conscious about being overweight. Closet TV. Interests: Likes Basie, Kenton, Miller & Dorsey, Mr. B and Sarah, dancing & girl talk. Just emerging and needs help in selecting wardrobe and other things. Wife objects, so I have problems. Will answer all.
Occupant, P.O. Box 13, Essex, MA 01929

MICHELLE H. (MA) 51
Attractive GWM TV/TS, 30, 5'9", 150, passes easily and loves to be feminine. Would like to hear from other girls interested in fashion, quiet talks, movies, shopping, etc. "I'm very sincere and caring and will answer all replies. Thanks.
Michelle H. (MA-0576)

Joanna A. (MA-1430)

STACEY G. (E. MA) 50
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing
SWM, 28, 6'1", 175, strong TS inclinations. Interests: Writing, film humor, music, animation, & graphics. "I am constantly striving to integrate my femme self into my everyday life. Would like to get to know other TSs with advise and perspective and other girls active in TV/TS Community."
Stacy G., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

CHRISTY LAWRENCE (MA) 50
MWM, 30, 5'8". Interests: Bike racing, karate, and of course cross-dressing and all things feminine. Life-long TV presently living in closet and NO immediate plans of coming out. Wife assists cross-dressing. Hoping to find friends on South Shore for support and guidance.
Christy L (MA-1195)

DIANA E. MARSHALL (MA) 51
Member: Tiffany
SWM TV, 40, 5'6", 125, loves all things feminine.
Interests: Music and stereo equipment, photography, acrylic and oil painting. "I would like to go out more as a woman. Would like to meet new friends, and attend Tiffany functions."
Diana M. (MA-0886)

SWM TV, 46, 6', 200, BA philosophy, athletically oriented (pro skier 8 years), ACBL (bridge) life master. A caring person, sincerely interested in the well-being of others.
Interests: Folk singing, bridge, skiing, the wilderness, the flowers, and listening to the birds sing. Also interested in philosophy. "I'm sorry but I cannot respond to personal correspondence. However, I'm very interested in hearing from people who would like to become 'leaders', and are willing to put out some effort on behalf of the TV/TS Community. So, if you are a leader-type person and willing to put out some effort to help others, write to me, or better, give me a call."
Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Box 367, Wayland

DEE DEE W (Hartford CT)
I'd like the girls at Tiffany
Who like to write,
To write to me.
A photograph, a kindly note
Will make me say,
"I'm glad she wrote."
Dee Dee W (CT-0002)

KAREN ANN N. (ME) 50
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing
MWM hetero cross-dresser (since adolescence), 5'4", 130, friendly, happy, enjoys people, places, & things. Interests: Photography, walking, clothes, dining out, shopping, nature. "I would enjoy corresponding and exchanging photos with other crossdressers. I would also enjoy discreet shopping trips and dining out while dressed."
Karen Ann N (ME-0787)

HELEN T. (NH) 49
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany's P-town Outing, Tiffany WSG Outing
MWM TV, 47, 5'11". Tiffany & I.F.G.E. Board of Directors. Hopes to make social contacts within the TV-TS Community.
Helen T., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

LEE A. (ME) 48
MWM closet TV, 55, 5'10", brown hair, good personality. Enjoys dressing and becoming a woman, corresponding and/or meeting others who enjoy dressing in attractive clothes and high heels. Also enjoys jogging, fishing, hunting, bridge and
pinochle. "I will be spending a lot of time in Florida and am hoping for social contacts there and along the way. All mail will be answered."
Lee A. (ME-0247)

SHARON LYNN G. (RI) 48
DWM hetero TV, 39, 5'4", shy, conservative, sensitive. Interests: Crossdressing, hiking, reading (esp sci-fi), computers. "I've been a life-long TV, but have just discovered our community. I'd like to meet other members and friends of our world, to be myself without being alone."
Sharon G. (RI-0947)

GLORIA ROBINS (E. MA) 51
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Fantasia Fair '87
MWM TV, 43, professional person. Interested in psychological aspects of crossdressing, feminism, and androgyny.
"The most important thing I've ever done is to accept myself as Gloria. Interested in expressing my feminine qualities both as Gloria and as Glenn. Interested in meeting like-minded persons, and providing support to TVs who feel confused or guilty.
Gloria Robins, c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

christina smith (e. ma) 50
Member: Tiffany
38, 5'11", 175. Married, life-long TV.
"I enjoy dressing and becoming a woman. I'm an accomplished cook, baker, photographer. I'd love to correspond with and possibly meet with other TVs to discuss mutual interests. Want to be out and among friends."
Christy S. (MA-0649)

NEW ENGLAND

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN (NH)
Director I.F.G.E.

Christy S. MA-0649)

Gloria Robins

MICHELLE STEVENS (CT) 48

Tall, hazel eyes, dark red curly hair, good figure, outgoing, fun loving. Interested in dressing & being with people who enjoy the same.

Michelle S. (CT-0942)

PAULA S. (CT) 48

WM TV, 6', 170 "I am interested in boating, skiing, shopping, girl talk, and meeting other people like myself."

Paula S. (CT-0920)

MICHELLE N. (CT) 48

WM bi TV, 37. Would like to meet others in CT area. Would like to go shopping with other girl friends.

Michelle N. (CT-0948)

Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director, I.F.G.E.

JONI G. (SE NH) 48

MWM TV, 42, 5'11", 160, good looking as male. Enjoys swimming, boating, reading. Has excellent outlook on life, good personality.

Joni G. (NH- 0991)

ANDREA G. (CT) 48

Member: Tri Ess

MWM hetero TV, 47, 5'11", 160 Interests: TV fiction, golf, racquet ball, reading, good restaurants. "I'd like to get to know my sisters & myself better. I enjoy one on one get-togethers rather than large gatherings."

Andrea G. (CT-0425)

KATHY S. (CT) 48

Married hetero, 27, cross-dressing since early teens. "I have an understanding attractive wife who shares in my cross-dressing. Would like to meet other TV couples."

Kathy S. (CT-0988)

Dee Dee W. (CT-0002)

DENISE MASON (CT) 48

Married TV, very feminine with interest in exotic hairdos & makeup. Very receptive wife allows TV, couple friendships. Will write and exchange photos. Can help others 'come out'. Active in CT and is forming a group in the SE CT area.

Denise Mason, P.O. Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460

ROBIN R. (NH) 48

Member: Tri Ess 6'2", 180, 50, married to understanding wife (mbr Tiffany's Wives Support Group). Interests: Wood working, good television, science, dining out, and walking. "I will answer letters, and would like to hear from sisters in New Hampshire."

Robin R. (NH-0757)

Karen N. (ME-0787)

JOAN H. (CT) 48

SM, 5'8", 170, 64, brown hair, blue-grey eyes, somewhat introverted but friendly & honest. Enjoys bicycling, hiking, and has many varied interests.

Joan H. (CT-1057)

CHRISTINA MARIE L. (NH) 48

SWM crossdresser, 32, interested in harmony with nature. "I like outdoor activities such as gardening, canoeing, fishing, skiing, hunting, skating, hiking. Would like to meet other crossdressers with similar interests."

Christina L. (NH-0709)

JAIME R. (RI) 48

Pre-op TS, 5'9", 148, brown eyes & hair, friendly, helpful. Enjoys rock & roll, country music, and gardening. Wants to make friends, and meet other people with the same interests, who want to enjoy life.

Jaime R. (RI-0300)

JANINE BRIDGET (RI) 48

Pre-op TS, 5'9", 140, auburn hair blue eyes. Interests: Computers, photography, Sci-Fi, sewing, embroidery. "I would like to meet individuals who can teach me to be confident in the female role I wish to lead."

Jan, P.O. Box 562, Coventry, RI 02816

NANCY MARIE T. (NH) 48

MWM, 5'9", 155, 31, married to understanding accepting woman. Enjoys shopping trips, dressing-up and being feminine, videos, reading. Would like to discreetly exchange cross-dressing experiences with other married TVs. Correspondence or meetings possible.

Nancy T. (NH-1062)

DAWN H. (CT) 49

Member: Tiffany SWM, 5/10", 40, slim build, college educated, enjoys the company of others. Interests: Being feminine as much as possible, camping, water skiing, loves summer and Florida. "I would like to be able to go out as my femme self more. Would like to correspond with others of similar interests."

Dawn H (CT-0858)

BOBBIE JEAN G. (ME) 49

5'10", 170, military officer, sometimes passible, wishes to understand crossdressing & TS psychologically and medically. Needs to speak with TSs to discuss what they hat to sacrifice to be TS. Professional medical person needs more personal experienced information. Would like to start a club in Maine. Bobbie G. (ME-1155)

Lee A. (ME-0247)

JACKIE MCDONALD (NH) 48

Member: Tiffany

Participant: P-town Spring Outing, P-town WSG Outing, Poconos

MWM, crossdresser, 40ish, 6'1", 180, rea-

Denise M.ason (CT-1014)

sonably attractive. Interests: Swimming, needle work, woodwork, micro computers. Loves shopping, long walks, & koffee klatching. Also, is very interested in helping people.

Jackie McDonald, c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

AMANDA JOSEPHS (CT) 49

Member: Tiffany, Tri Ess, NGA

MWM hetero TV, 52, 5'9", 148, prim, proper, passable. Prefers one on one situations. Interests: Classical music, museums, theatre, foreign films, old cars, and economics.

Amanda Josephs (CT-0290)

Carla Goldsneider (CT-0212)

JENNIFER W. (CT) 49

"I enjoy swimming, reading, music (esp C&W), and of course crossdressing. Have loving understanding wife who just loves Jennifer. I would like to meet any & all TVs like myself, and couples. Am very sincere."

Jennifer W. (CT-0921)

MARGO F. (NH-1266) 50

5'7", 155, WM. Interests: Guitar playing, furniture building, skiing, biking, hiking, talking about new ideas. "Have always felt the woman in myself, but have never acted on it. Now I would like to communicate with others, especially couples who have adjusted to the TV lifestyle. Would love to have someone special dress me up."

Margo F (NH-1266)

Janine Bridget D. (RI-0331)

DEVON A. (CT) 50

Member: XX Club

SWM pre-op TS, 31, 5'11", 145 Interests: Literature, writing (fiction), classical music, Beatles, computers. "I've known I was TS since early childhood, but I'm only now coming out. I have been on hormones 1 year. I'm shy and scared. Tend to be a loner, but I make good, though not lots of friends. I would like to correspond with others with similar likes and fears."

Devon A. (CT-1267)

Abby G. (NH--731)

CAROLE T. (NH) 50

Love music, theatre, cooking and being Carole. Just coming out after many false starts. Anxious to correspond with and meet others. Will answer all ASAP! Pictures appreciated.

Carole Thomas, PO Box 3057, Nashua, NH 03060

Dolly B. (NH-0648)

GWENNETH H. (ME) 50

5'7", 35, very early in planned transition Interests: Reading science fiction, working around house. "Very little experience. Have not 'come out' in public, but am working toward that happy moment."

Gwenneth H. (ME-1270)

SAL C. (CT) 50

Retired, lifelong closet TV. I would like to hear from anyone who knows of TVs or TSs in combinations with blindness. Occupant, PO Box 8150, Manchester, CT 06040

PAULA B. (ME) 50

Married WM, 5'9", 165, 43, almost hairless from head down. Loves crossdressing, outdoor activities, sports, interior decorating, cooking. "I want to meet and correspond with other crossdressers, pre-op TSs, etc. for mutual friendships, education, and fun."

Paula B. (ME-1300)

JANET PATTERSON (RI) 50

MWM TC, 50s, young looking, passable, college educated. Interests: Swimming, golf, photography, computers and cross-dressing.

Seeking friendship, photo exchange, correspondence and possible meeting with other TVs. Will answer all.

J. Patterson, PO Box 1067, Westerly, RI 02891

BILLIE R. (NH) 50

SWM, 44, 5'9", 180. Enjoys hunting, boating, reading, meeting other TVs. Loves sexy clothes, make-up, high heels. Has own home so can entertain or travel. Enjoys dating as a girl or guy.

Billie R. (NH-1347)

MICHELLE K. (CT) 51

Hetero WM TV, 5'10", 47, attractive, sincere, quiet. Interests: Swimming, cross-country skiing, music, theatre. Looking for honest caring and helpful TV or female individuals. Occupant, P.O. Box 10508, West Hartford, CT 06110

Billie R. (NH-1347)

CAROLANN E. DURETTE (NH) 51

Pre-op TS woman, late 30's, 5'9", blue eyes, light brown hair, fair complexion. Has cross-lived now for 4 years. Interests: Reading good books, eating good food, listening to folk music,and romance with the right person. "I hope to have S.R.S. by the end of 1988. I love to correspond with other TS women. I would like to meet that special someone to share the rest of my life with."

Carolann E. Durette, 314 Thornton St, Manchester, NH 03102

DARLENE S. ROSS (CT) 51

50's, 5'8", 160, gray hair (natural), looks younger than age, not an extrovert. Interests: Cross-dressing, photography, travel, sports (passive), music,reading. "I'm not ready yet to pass, would like to if had some support and help

Ronda D. (RI-1527)

from someone who does pass. Not Bi, would like to correspond (photo exchange) & possibly meet others who are in the area who share this situation for mutual satisfaction."

Darlene R. (CT-0838)

RONDA D. (RI) 51

28, 6'1", blue-green eyes, hair usually (not always) black. Nice legs. "I like all sports and being active. I have not been out on the town or even met other TVs. I would very much like to meet more people and talk about everything from dreams to fears. My TV feelings are getting harder to fight and talking to someone who understands would be so helpful to me."

Ronda D. (RI-1527)

MONICA WHITNEY (S. NH) 51

Member: Tiffany

SWM, Bi TV, 26, 6', 165. Interests: Music, movies, dancing, dining out and dressing up when I can. "I'm just coming out of closet, and would love to meet other TVs & TSs and understanding women for fun and friendship."

Monica W. (NH-1528)

NEW YORK

CAMILE MC. (SE NY) 48

Member: Tiffany Club, Chi Delta Mu Tri-Ess

Hetero crossdresser, 72, 5'10", 164, methodist, widower. Honest, & security conscious. Doesn't drink, smoke, or gamble. Loves & enjoys people, and lives by the old-fashioned 'golden rule', and a strict moral code. Enjoys crossdressing, & repairing things around the house. Loves C&W music,writes music & plays various instruments. Taught drumming. "I'm a widower for 7 years, and would love to meet a nice woman who will accept me part time en femme, or better, as 'sister companion', and sometimes as male companion."

C.A.M. Mc., Box 207, Pelham, NY 10803

CONNIE N. (W. NY) 48

MWM elderly hetero TV, 5'5", 125, with most supportive wife. Likes clean cut clothes and pretty heels. Loves to correspond. All letters promptly answered. Connie N. (NY-0434)

BARBARA B. (LI NY) 48

Member: NYC Chapter Participant: Tiffany's P-town Convention, Poconos Outing

MWM, 46, 5'10", 155, wife does not approve. Helpful, honest, discreet,values same in others. Interests: All kinds of music, dancing, fashion, friends. "Although a lifelong crossdresser, circumstances have recently forced me 'back into the closet', However, I will always remember and continue to support my sisters and friends."

Barbara B. (NY-0258)

SUSAN ELIZABETH Z. (W. NY) 48

Member: EON SWM cross-dresser, enjoys fashion, gardening, wildlife, camping. "I enjoy the many new friends I have since joining EON."

Susan Z. (NY-0994)

PAM VAN BUREN (N. NY) 48

Participant: Fantasia Fair '80 - '85

Awards: Miss Femininity '84, Miss Provincetown '85

TV, 33, 5'8", 130, quiet, caring, and good humored. Passes well and enjoys shopping, dining out, and traveling. Enjoys skiing, sailing, making clothes, playing music, and being a woman as much as possible. Pam is interested in meeting and corresponding with people throughout the country, especially in the Eastern NY Western New England area.

Pam V. (NY-0253)

ANGELA SHEEDY (W. NY) 48

MWM, 40, with supportive wife. Enjoys fly fishing, traveling, motorcycling. "I'm thoroughly motivated and intellectually stimulated by crossdressing, and living out my fantasies as Angela. I'm hoping to lead the rest of my life as a happy person."

Angela S. (NY-0719)

JOANNE R. (L.I. NY) 48

"I'm 35, 5'9", and a gender troubled novice cross-dresser. I enjoy shopping, baseball, rock & roll, and am interested in making friends. I can be a lot of fun, but I need a push."

Joanne R. (NY-1004)

LYNDA D. (E. NY) 49

MWM TV, 33, shy. Would like to learn more

Michelle K. (CT-1490)

CarolAnn D. (NH-0890)

Monica W. (NH-1528)

about dressing, make-up & mannerisms. Would like to correspond and also meet others who are sensible & discreet.

Lynda D. (NY-0775)

SHANNON MICHAELS (W. NY) 49

Member: Butterfly SWM-F post-op TS. Interests: Travel, motorcycling, camping, art, photography, & butterflies. "I'm interested in meeting TVs and other TSs. Try to dedicate much of my free time educating the community. It always gives me pleasure when someone is helped. I feel that since I no longer teach art it is no reason that I can't teach."

Shannon Michaels, P.O. Box 5071, Vestal, NY 13851

JANE MURPHY (W. NY) 48

Member: Butterfly SWM TV, 23, 6'11". Interests: Camping, sports, writing, computers, and the feminine way. "I'm out of the closet to stay and am looking to correspond with all. It's great to be young and ahle to enjoy today's fashions. I travel to some of the major cities, maybe we can get together for a night on the town!"

Jane Murphy, c/o P.O. Box 35, Endicott, NY 13760

LONNA JOAN CARR (E. NY) 48

Member: Tri Ess Mature, 50-ish, attractive, very good femme figure, successful RE broker. Interests: Music, theatre, jogging, shopping, dancing, socializing as a girl. "Let's get to know each other."

Ms Lonna Joan Carr, Box 763, Jericho, NY 11763

DONNA MARIE H. (W. NY) 48

Member: Eon (co-founder), Tri Ess

Hetero male, 5'7", 160, brown hair, hlue eyes. Married to a very supportive wife, have four understanding children. Interests: Camping, model cars & R.R. modeling, perfection of my feminine image. "Love working with & helping couples, and those new to cross-dressing."

Donna H. (NY-0670)

KATE MORRISEN (L.I. NY) 49

Member: Butterfly MWM hetero TV, 6'1", 40, attractive when dressed, but still in the closet. Interests: Writing, music, computers, biking and photography. Loves collecting and wearing all feminine clothing, especially lingerie. "I want to hear from all other TVs, TSs, and women. Let's share our ideas about dressing up as well as exchanging our feminine fantasies."

Kate Morrisen, P.O. Box 20, jericho, NY 11753

TRENNA MARIE M. (W. NY) 49
Member: Tri Ess
Participant: Wine Country WE
Hetero TV, 62, 178, 5'8", has been dressing 52 years. Supportive wife. Interests: Winston Cup stock car racing, railroading, sewing, being feminine. "Love to go out dressed, but can't in my area. Love to write and will answer all."
Trenna Marie (NY-0623)

Camile MC. (NY-0582)

RENEE CHEVALIER (N. NY) 49
Member: Tiffany, TGIC, EON, Butterfly, I.F.G.E. Board of Directors
Participant: P-town WSG Outing, Wine Country WE
Awards: The MSL Service Award
MWM, 5'9", 150, passable at times, a supporter and hard worker on gender issues. Editor TGIC Newsletter. Interests: Varied and many, photography, carpentry. "I enjoy helping others through TGIC and bringing out newcomers to the Community." Renee Chevalier, P.O. Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604

JEANETTE M. (NYC NY) 49
Member: Tiffany
MWM Older TV, 5'10", 145, blue eyes, 2" long fingernails, slim, good looking, passable, sociable. Interests: Photography, travel, pets, fashion, makeup, long nails. Also, all TV/TS femme activities, makeup, fashion, golf, good restaurants, cruising Caribbean, shopping. Wants to make some lasting friendships.
Jeanette M (NY-1149)

JAN ALYCE V. (NYC NY) 49
SWM TV, 39, 5'11", 175. Has recently resumed crossdressing after a 9-year absence. "I enjoy ballet & opera, and running for physical & mental well being. I want to move further out of the closet & develop Jan's femininity. I would enjoy corresponding to share experiences & provide mutual support in feminine development."

Connie N. (W. NY-0434)

Terri W. (NY-1241)

Bonnie K. (NY-1186)

Jan V (NY-1187)

BONNIE K. (W. NY) 49
Member: EON
MWM, 38, 5'7", size 12, blue eyes and brown hair.
Interests: Sailing, cross-country skiing, and golf. Also, barbershop harmony and ship modeling. "I have a very supportive girlfriend who would also like to hear from other wives/significant others. I live as Bonnie as much as possible and enjoy shopping, dining out and meeting other TVs and wives. Will answer all,

Trenna Marie M. (NY-0623)

Renee Chevalier (NY) and Pamela Van Buren (NY-0253)
Provincetown Harbor, 1987 (Photo Credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

and look forward to making many new friends."
Bonnie K. (NY-1186)

JOAN FASHIONS (N. NY) 50
Member: Tri Ess, NGA
MWM TV/TG, 5'10", 165, 52. Spends most weekends as Joan. Family very supporting. Complete freedom of expression. Active in NYC meetings and parties. Travel, shopping, weekend hotels, restaurants are all part of Joan's activities. Letters with photo will receive prompt response.
Joan Fashions, P.O. Box 1756 S. Rd Annex, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

bARBARA b. (ny-0258)

RENEE' SLOCUM (W. NY) 50
SWM hetero, 29, 5'11", 160, college educated, shy. Interests: Photography, collecting small antiques, ballet & exercise, elegant feminine

Dolores M. (NY-0808)

parties. "I would like to meet and correspond with other crossdressers and females in the Finger Lakes area."
Renee Slocum (NY-0651)

ROY E. (NYC NY) 49
Member: Eulenspiegel Attractive, 36, hetero, long standing interest in his feminine aspects. New to crossdressing. Enjoys the arts, writing, reading, high technology, music. "I would like to correspond with and possibly meet post-op M-F TSs in the NYC area."
Roy E., 88 Bleecker St, Apt 2M, NYC NY 10012

GINNY ALLISON D. (N. NY) 49
"I am interested in contacting, writing, and meeting others to build friendships and self confidence. I would like to improve enough to pass."
Ginny Allison D. (NY-1223)

DELORES MERHIGE (NY) 49
Member: NYGA, Serenity, L.I.F.E., Chi Delta Mu (President) Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, 'Coming Together' Married, middle-aged, 5'10", med build, engineer, life long TV. Interests: Fashion, clothes, makeup, socializing, music, art, photography, sailing, tennis, reading. "Promise to answer all mail as quickly as possible."
Delores Merhige, P.O. Box 327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762

TERI WHITE (S. NY) 49
Member: Tri Ess, NYGA
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E
SBM CD, 30's, 5'7", 190, soft spoken, sociable, conservative, friendly. Interests: Cooking, graphic art (cartooning), music (pop - classical). "I have a strong involvement in Tri-State (NY, NJ, CT) community. Interested in networking and friendships for better communication throughout the sisterhood."
Teri W. (NY-1241)

CAROL TAYLOR (W. NY) 50
MWM, 45, 165, lifelong crossdresser, almost guilt free, married to a wonderful, accepting (with healthy understandable questions), and helpful wife. Anxious to help others, especially couples, find an appropriate and comfortable place for some crossdressing to exist in their lives with minimal guilt and fear. We golf, ski, boat and work hard.
Carol Taylor (NY-0428)

JOANNA PAULINE (W. NY) 50
Member: Tri Ess
Married, 5'10", 155, 38, size 14, 2 children, engineer, Catholic. "I've enjoyed the feminine side of my personality since my early teens. I've been happily married for 14 years. I recently told my wife about my crossdressing, and we are

Joan F. (NY01220)

taking one step at a time, hopefully toward a compromise. My interests include photography, cinema, video, and gardening. I'm over the guilt phase, and want to correspond with others in the Rochester NY area."

Joanna Pauline, BX-STS, PO Box 15731, Rochester, NY 14615

DIANE SLOTE (S.E. NY) 50

MWM, 39, enjoys music, camping, photography, fashion, & above all else, being feminine whenever possible. I'm interested in corresponding & meeting with people who will accept me as a woman. Due to family considerations, I'm unable to socialize much.

Diane S. (NY-0990)

AMANDA WALTER (N. NY) 50

MWM, 39, close to passing. Interests: Art, classical music, high-end audio, skiing. "Would like to hear from sisters who also have successful relations with wives, girlfriends. What is your secret?"

Amanda Walter, Box 4030, Glens Falls, NY 12801

VICKIE S. (L.I. NY) 50

Member: LIFE, Chi Delta Mu

Married, hetero. "I enjoy water & downhill skiing, photography, music, song writing, working-out. My wife does not approve. I'm basically closeted, but I enjoy being a TV and dress whenever the opportunity arises."

Vickie Stone, Box 121, Seaford, NY 11785

GLORIA F. (N. NY) 50

SWM, mid 50's, 5'8", 155, shaved, quiet, conservative, discreet. Interests: Photography, classical music, opera, outdoors, home life & crossdressing. "I'm a lifelong TV, love being feminine, and interested in developing close, lasting friendships with other TVs. Love to live life as my fem self. I'm single and live alone in a small house in the country."

G. Fuhrman, P.O. Box 60, North River, NY 12856

GRETCHEN LYNCH (W. NY) 51

6'1", blue eyes, 195, good figure. Enjoys bike riding, hiking and crossdressing. Would like to meet other TVs in the Buffalo NY area. Would like to have dinner out.

Gretchen L., P.O. Box 231, Celeron, NY 14720

BETTY PRINCE (NYC) 50

SW TS, blonde, 5'7", good looking, pleasant personality, shy, fun loving. Interests: Computers, all sports, reading, living as a woman. "I am a TS who would like to meet & make friends with other TSs & TVs who can help me to live as the woman I am. Just coming out of the closet."

Betty Prince, 2400 Dorsey St, Apt 3B, Bronx, NY 10461

HELEN F. (N. NY) 50

Member: TGIC, Tiffany

Participant: Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing Novice crossdresser, 35, long red hair, freckles, quiet and somewhat shy. Enjoys sailing and stained glass, and hopes to contact and become friends with more people involved in the TV-TS Community. Helen F. (NY-1366)

JOANNE E. (S. NY) 50

Member: Tri-Ess Interests: Shopping, photography, dressing up. Is interested in corresponding with other TVs and promises to answer all. Has very understanding wife who would like to hear from other wives and S.O.'s.

Joanne E., P.O. Box 310, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547

REGINA KING (W. NY) 50

5'7", occasional TV with strong femme self. Looking for correspondents and companions. Would love to dress-up with others nearby. Is bi, and has found a couple of women friends who enjoy CDs.

Regina King, Box 6601, Ithaca, NY 14851

MICHELE P. (N.NY) 51

Member: TGIC

MWM, 39, 5'11", brown hair & eyes Interests: Dining out, dancing, high fashion, gourmet cooking, shopping. "Would like to correspond & meet other TVs or TSs, especially married TVs, for support and friendship."

Michele P. (NY-1534)

CORETTA GOODWIN (N.NY) 51

Member: Tri Ess

28, TV for 15 years, retail sales manager, husband & father. Enjoys making pottery, computers, toys, spy novels, comic books. Coretta G. (NY-1535)

Donna Marie H. (NY-0670)

NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA

KAREN V (Northern NJ) 49

Member: Tiffany

SWM hetero TV, 38, 5'8, 155, good personality and sense of humor. Adventouress. "A classical music nut, I also enjoy card & word games, karate (black belt), skiing, and gourmet food. I would like to meet women who share some of these interests and are open minded about the cross dressing scene.

Karen V (NJ-0347)

PAULA A. (NJ) 48

Member: Tiffany

MWM TV 50's, 5'9", 175, medium build. Interests: Carpentry, photography and reading. "Have attended several private sessions for makeup and wardrobe instruction. Barely passable but enjoy stepping out on occasion as a conservative but smartly dressed woman. Would love M or F company to dine out. Wife knows but does not encourage. Would enjoy corresponding with others."

Paula A. (NJ-0534)

Renee Chevalier (I.F.G.E. Board of Directors)

Joanna Pauline (NY-0973)

CINDY H. (E. PA) 48

GW TV/TS, 5'9", 170, 35. Enjoys being a girl and going out with older masculine W males. Interests: Make-up, hairstyling, fashion & beauty. Music, movies, TV, VCR, & pets. "I've become very isolated in 'closet' where I live as a woman. My search for a lasting meaningful relationship has been discouraging."

Cindy H. (PA-0952)

WENDY H. (PA) 48

SWM hetero TV, 28, 6', 165 Interests: Music, photography, and all things relative to cross-dressing. Wishes to correspond with passable TVs regarding all aspect of femininity. Especially interested in hearing from sympathetic females interested in helping me become more womanly. Photo appreciated.

Wendy H. (PA-0958)

BRENDA L. HICKEY (PA) 48

M-F TS, pre-op, 34, 5'10", 160, auburn hair, blue eyes, handicapped. Has dressed and lived as a woman for 3 years. Interests: Reading (sci-fi, westerns, TV fiction), computers, chess, archery, pocket billiards, helping others. "I'm looking for a lasting friendship. I am extremely introverted and need to learn to loosen up, express my feelings openly, and be more outgoing."

Miss Brenda L. Hickey, Hoy Towers, Apt 306, 301 Mohn St., Steelton, PA 17113-2092

SHEILA KIRK (W. PA) 50

Member: Tiffany, TransPitt, Paradise

Attractive TV, dedicated to this wonderful joy of dressing. "I work very hard so moments of relaxation and pleasure of this sort are precious to me. I love being a TV, and I'm anxious to meet many others who delight in the same feelings."

Sheila K. (PA-0336)

RICKY HUNT (PA) 48

Member: Tri Ess

MWM, 36, 6'2", 250. Interests: Electronics, computers, cooking, hiking, sewing, science fiction, correspondence. "I'm looking for correspondents who are interested in other subjects as well as TVism. My wife would like to hear from other wives." Ricky Hunt, Box 263, Towanda, PA 18848

BETH B. (W. PA) 48

Member: TransPitt

6', thin build, likes to dress dressy, and be with people of good personality. Interests: Dancing, shipping, eating out. Interested in meeting people in south-western Penn., and Tri-State area (W.VA, OH, and MD).

Beth B. (PA-1031)

Jan Alyce V. (NY-1187)

Vickie Stone (NY-1035)

Alison Laing (PA with Sheila Kirk (PA), Niela (MA), Robin (MA), Sharon (VA), Carmen (VA) Betty Ann (VA and Geri (MD) Provincetown, 1987 (Photo Credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Angela G. (PA-1075)

Phyllis D. (NJ-1515)

Dorothy G. (NJ-0627)

Hoanna G. (NJ-0520)

MID-ATLANTIC, SOUTHEAST

Julie Cavanaugh (NJ-1460)

JENNIFER B. (SE FL) 48

Single, never married, 5'7", 123. Young, passable, a hard working R.N. with graduate degree and professional management experience. "It's the gender that counts - be the person you want to be. '86 goal: to obtain a professional position as a female in the West Palm Beach area. Do you own a business and need an intelligent, attractive, hard working manager to help you be even more successful? Contact me."

Jennifer B. (FL-0953)

CAROL SUSAN STEARNS (FL) 48

MWM, 60+, slight, passes very well. Interests: Writing, golf (ladies' tees), clothes, people watching, self-improvement, helping others enjoy their right to dress, do, and be as they please. "I dress almost all the time and feel "crossdressed" only when I must wear male garments for society's sake. My wife is semi-tolerant, but getting better. Would enjoy hearing from others, especially from central Florida. Will answer all."

Carol Susan Stearns, P.O. Box 803, Lake Mary, FL 32746-0803

LUCIENNE (LUCY) D. (TN) 48

Member: Tri Ess

Angela Ash (VA-0736)

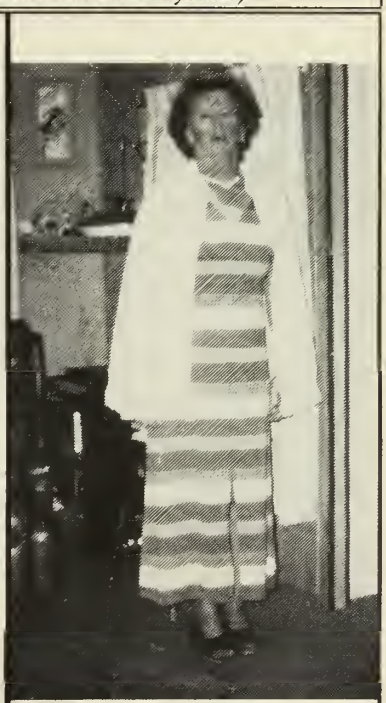
Participant: Tri Ess Holiday En Femme

Enjoys bird watching, reading, travel, classical music. "I am 54, a freelance professional artist. The love of all things feminine has been a constant all my life, but my TVism fully surfaced only 5 years ago with the support of a loving wife. I now dress often, and pass in

Sheila Kirk (PA) with Pam Van Buren and Carol J. Provincetown, 1987 (Photo Credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Trudy Henry (PA-1391)

Veronica Susan Styles (NC-1367)



Theodora R. (FL-1117)

Cheryl Ann C. (VA-0669)

public. I'm eager to know and correspond with others."
Lucienne D. (TN-1000)

CATHY R. (FL) 48
DWM, 50, 6', 160, college, shy cross-dresser with XXY genes. Enjoys music, big bands, gardening, quiet lifestyle, cross-dressing, meeting other TVs & TSs.
Cathy R. (FL-1028)

JENNIFER R. (FL) 48
SWM, early 30's, and looking for answers. Athletically inclined. I enjoy scuba diving and tennis, and heading out into the Gulf by boat.

Roberta L. (DC-0972)

Carol Susan Stearns (FL)

Jennifer R. (FL-0739)

CYNTHIA KATHERYN JACOBS (AR) 48
SWM, 5'10", 170. Shy, quiet person looking for help in improving my femininity. would love to meet others while dressed. Enjoys sports, movies,and video games. Looking for someone who could teach me to dance, cook and sew. I enjoy being photographed as a woman. Hoping to find understanding people within a 5-hour drive of Northeast Arkansas
Cynthia J. (AR-1063)

Linda C. (VA-0703)

VANESSA S. (FL) 49
Member: Tri Ess MWM, 46, 5'7". Lifelong crossdresser, but unable to dress frequently. Interests: Reading, history, stamp collecting, lovely femme fashions, high heels, wigs, makeup. "I love to dress up and feel feminine. I especially enjoy very femme high fashion clothes and footwear.
Correspondence helps me get through those times when I can't dress."
Vanessa S. (FL-1178)

SARAH ANNE D. (FL) 49 Long time TV, 5'6", light complexion. Enjoys flea markets, traveling, & boating. Loves all things feminine.
Sarah Anne D. (FL-0558)

THEODORA R. (FL) 50
5'8", 160, size 18. Single TV. Crossdress at home, wear blouse & slacks all the time, and like all female things. Will answer all.
Theodora R (FL-1117)

DELINDA LESLIE N. (MS) 50
42, 5'4", 195, brown hair, brown eyes. Interests: Writing, the arts, wicca, psychology, theatre, movies. "I would like to correspond with all who are interested in TVism, TSism, & TGism." Delinda N. (MS-1275)

MID-WEST

DIANE KENDALL (GA) 50

Member: Tri Ess Life long TV, willowy, sensuous, very feminine with extensive, fashionable wardrobe including much precious lingerie - mostly pink - and heels for every outfit and occasion. wants to meet, correspond with and talk to cute TVs, TSs, and GGs who love and appreciate the feminine as much as I do. Also write stories about boys being sweetly dressed as girls by girls. Let's be girls together in Atlanta or elsewhere.

Diane Kendall, 3220-A Post Woods Dr, Atlanta, GA 30339 (404) 988-0667

LINDA W. (GA) 51

Member: Tri Ess

SWM TV, 5'10", 180, size 18, 29. Computer systems analyst, loves all music (especially jazz), voracious reader, runner, hiker. "After almost 30 years in the closet, I'm trying to emerge and make some TV/TG/TS friends. I'm getting involved in an emerging Tri-Ess Chapter in the Southeast. Will answer all." Linda W. (GA-1486)

CAROLYN COOPER (GA) 50

Enjoys feminine dress & fashions, photograpy, travel (GA, NC, & SC). I would like to correspond with other TVs concerning our mutual interests and concerns.

Carolyn Cooper, P.O. Box 591, Lilburn, GA 30247

ERLENE THOMAS (FL) 50 Early 40's, just started openly cross-dressing with wife's understanding. Would like to meet others for discussion of same.

Erlene T. (FL-1396)

BOBBIE KAYE (FL) 51

MWM, bi, 53, 5'11", 175, fair, trim, college BA, professional, friendly. Enjoys tennis & golf. "Closet crossdresser for 25 years, but really feel relaxed and smile when I'm dressed.

Evelyn B. (KS-0400)

Would like to hear from others and meet in Florida."

B.K., P.O. Box 5021, Sarasota, FL 3427

JACKIE S. (IN) 48

Member: CrossPort

TV, 5'9", 150, brown eyes & hair, impared hearing, quiet, lonesome, and non-smoker.

Interests: Bowling, golf, reading, and feminine clothing, especially leotards, fishnet hose, cocktail dresses, etc. Also enjoys nights out in 'Cincy' and 'Indy'. "I wnat to meet other TVs and TSs, and in need of a male escort. Can travel on weekends in Midwest and South. Please write."

Jackie S. (IN-1065)

YVONNE COOK (IN) 49

Member: Chi Chapter, CrossPort, IXS, TGIC, I.F.G.E. Board of Directors.

Friendly, and sincere individual who enjoys all people who are involved in gender issues. Has appeared on national television.

Yvonne Cook, P.O. Box 436, Schererville, IN 46375

Karen C. (IA-1170)

Beverly W. (IA-1230)

JULIE ANN J. (MI) 49

Member: Crossroads

SWM hetero, 5'10", 160, 24. Enjoys X-C skiing, camping, bicycling, lively parties, and quiet talks over a cup of coffee.

"I am interested in meeting any sincere TV/TS in the Detroit or Great Lakes area for friendship. GGs - if you don't live in my area, write anyway. I am an easy-going person who loves to crossdress as much as possible."

Julie Ann Johnson, P.O. Box 8715, Royal Oak, MI 48068

REBECCA KAY H. (MI) 49

Member: Crossroads

Married WM, 39, 6'4", 205, brown hair & eyes. Just peeking out of the closet & need lots of help. Enjoys sports. "I have known about the 'girl inside' since a very young age. It is time to let her out & for good. I need lots of help because at my size it will be hard to pass."

Becky Hill (MI-0829)

JENNIFER N. (MI) 49

Member: Tri Ess

MWM TV, 5'11", 50, blue eyes, brown hair. "I travel estensively and use this as an opportunity to meet and socialize with my sisters. I love to dance and party. My interests center on developing my fem-self, passing in all situations and just being Jennifer. I would be happy to correspond and share with my sis-

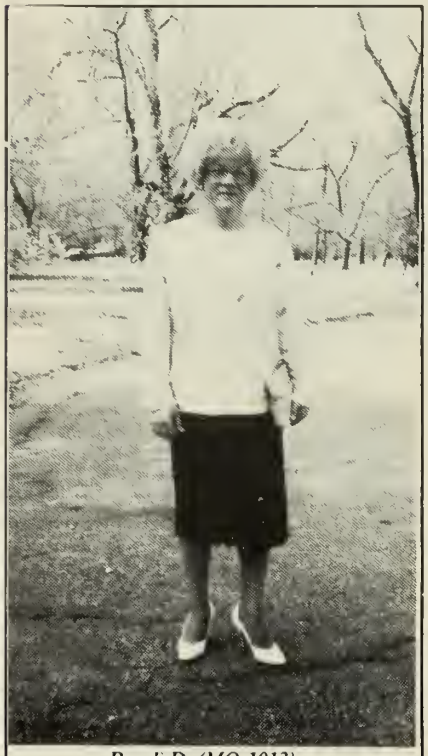
Jane Nance (KS-0694)

ters."
Jennifer N. (MI-1165)

MILESA PHAR (MI) 48
Member: Crossroads, Paradise
Participant: "Be All" '84 - '86
Hetero TV, married to understanding wife. Interests: Photography, shopping, good conversation, enjoys the fine art of femininity. "I am a professional person who has accepted my femme identity and wishes to educate the public with a positive image of TVs & TSs."
Milesa Phar, P.O. Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135

Cynthia J. (AR-1063)

SHIRLEY P. (IL) 48
Member: Salmacis
Single, crossdresser for many years.



Randi D. (MO-1013)

Crossdress at home all the time, and go out occasionally. Would enjoy correspondence.
Shirley P. (IL-1252)

RAMONA S. (IL) 48
Member: Tri Ess, Outreach, ETVC
Hetero TV, early 50s, 5'7", interested in meeting & corresponding with othe TV/TSs.

Haley (NB-1079)

Terri Scott (MI-0476)

Enjoys big band & semi-classical music, theatre, reading, swimming, & girl talk.
Ramona S. (IL-1180)

KIM MARTIN (IL) 48
WM, 36, 5'8". Enjoys foodball, golf, reading, 50's music, all aspects of crossdressing. Would like to correspond and eventually meet others for lasting friendships.
Kim Martin (IL-1207)

CHRISTINA MARIE B. (IA) 49
TS, 5'11", slender, 40, attractive, well groomed, very feminine with good sense of humor. Enjoys shopping, traveling, playing bridge, sports, & just being a girl.
"I want very much to meet socially with sister TV/TSs or develop penpals. Been out of the closet for 2 years and want to express my womanhood inevery way possible."
Christina Marie Bouchier, P.O. Box 623, Cedar Falls, IA 60613

BEVERLY WAYNE (IA) 49
Member: Chi Chapter
"Am helping organize an Iowa affiliate of Tri Ess. Enjoy social gatherings, shopping and evenings on the town, sports, photography, meeting new friends in person and by mail."
Beverly Wayne, P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

KAREN CASEY (IA) 49
Member: Tri Ess, SLGF
45, married 19 years, no children, college degree, business analyst. Enjoys reading, photography, cooking. "I hope to meet some new interesting sisters, perhaps develop some lifetime friendships."

Karen Casey, P.O. Box 7224, Grand Sta., Des Moines, IA 50409

EVE B. (IL) 48

Member: Chi Chapter Tri Ess, Outreach

Participant: DREAM '77 - '80, Fantasia Fair '81-'85, "Be All" Awards: Miss Dream '78, Miss Congeniality, Miss Best Dressed, Miss Fantasia Fair

Eve is an elegant, fun-loving girl who 'exists' 3 to 4 days a week. Enjoys shopping, dining out, and traveling the mid-west and west. Does many presentations before professional and college audiences to help 'educate' on our lifestyle. Eve plays golf and tennis.

Eve B. (IL-0523)

Milesa Phar (MI-0976)

PAMELA ANN JOHNSON (MN) 48

37, 6', 195, brown hair, blue eyes (and always on a diet) Interested in transsexualism, and achieving the end result.

Pamela Ann Johnson, P.O. Box 19532, St. Paul, MN 55119

ELIZABETH JEAN B. (IN) 48

Member: Cross-Port

Interests: Photography, making new friends, travel, fashion. "I enjoy being Elizabeth, and hope to make new friends. Would like to meet other TV/TS's in my area. Will answer all correspondence."

Elizabeth B. (IN-1032)

Michelle M. (OH-0954)

THERESA C. (MI) 48

MWM hetero. Enjoys skiing, boating, shopping, fashion, gender psychology,cosmetics, androgyny, all things feminine. Would love to meet others, and correspondence with like-minded crossdressers and supportive genuine women.

Theresa C. (MI-1003)

Jackie S. (IN-1065)

LAYLA ROXANNE JOY (KS) 48

Member: Tri Ess

Enjoys sports, radio control models, motorcycles, cooking, makeup, wig styling. "I like to dress when I can, and I hope to meet more people who share my love of the feminine."

Layla Roxanne Joy, P.O. Box 8438, Wichita, KS 67208

MICHELLE M. (S.W. OH) 48

Member: Paradise, Cross-Port, Tri Ess

Hetero married crossdresser, 5'9", 170, educated, friendly. Married 15 years to an "A" wife who accepts and helps. An original organizer of Paradise. Enjoys crossdressing, hi-heels, 'girl talk', and picture taking sessions. Needs help to enhance feminine voice. Interested in meeting other married cross-dressers in SW Ohio.

Michelle M. (OH-0954)

NAOMI O. (IL) 48

Member: Chi Chapter (President) Crossroads, Paradise, Outreach

Participant: Fantasia Fair, "Be All"

Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair, Miss Congeniality

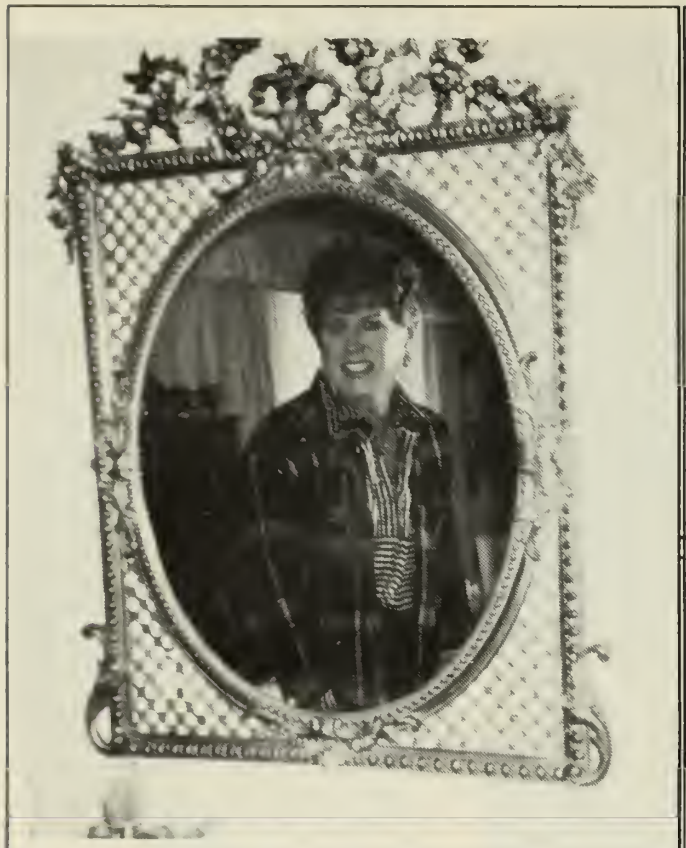
A Chicago area attorney who loves the better things in life. Is personable and understanding. Enjoys travel, photography, food (still can't stand beets or brussels sprouts), and fashion & jewelry (it's the gypsy in my soul). Active in mid-west cross-dressing activities, and has appeared on radio and television in Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia and Minneapolis.

Naomi O., P.O. Box 342, Chicago, IL 60690

Geri Lynn (MI-0666)

MONICA MARTIN (WI) 48

MWM, 50, 5'10", 165, professional person. Interests: Travel, hiking, camping, dressing as a woman, meeting and /or corresponding with other TVs or TSs, or females. I have been dressing since I was 12, and I'm very happy with my femme life. My first and main love is lingerie, hose, and high heels. All letters will be answered. (If possible, please enclose pic-



Eve B. (IL-0523) IFGE Board of Directors

Naomi O. (IL-0257) IFGE Board of Directors

tures.)"
Monica Martin, Box 92023, Milwaukee, WI 53202

JOHN R. (MN) 48
Divorced hetero male, mid-50's, good health, active, businessman, well-travelled, strong traditionalist, cosmopolitan. Interested in meeting, knowing highly feminine TS/TV for social contact, possible enduring relationship.
John R. (MN-0770)

JANE NANCE (KS) 48
Member: Tri-Ess, Outreach, TS Voice
Married, mid-50's, 5'7", 135, supportive wife, masters degree. Interests: Spending time in public as a female, especially with spouse. Also, symphonic music, theatre, movies, & dinners. I'm transsexual, but committed to my hetero-sexual marital relationship. Tend to be a fairly private person, with minimal personal meetings with other cross-dressers. As time permits, willing to share my struggles, growth & experiences with others. Dedicated to educating others about cross-dressing & was on Ariadne Kane's program at U. of Iowa."
Ms Jane Nance, P.O. Box 67088, Topeka, KS 66667-0088

Yvonne Cook (IN-1009) IFGE Board of Directors

EVELYN BORDEN (KS) 48
Member: Tri Ess
Tall, attractive, passes well, warm and friendly. College educated professional who is an advanced crossdresser, TS oriented. Interested in finding resources to help withfurthering the femme self, helping others to reach resources in the Kansas City area.
Evelyn B. (KS-0400)

DORIS MORROW (KS) 48
Member: Tri Ess
MWM, 48, just coming out of the closet. Size 22 1/2, cannot pass. Would like to correspond with other TVs, especially in Kansas. I live in Wichita.
Doris M. (KS-0962)

ROBERTA LEE (ND) 49
Member: Tri Ess
Happily married TV, 5'8", 145, 43, has good sense of humor. Interests: Electronics, books, creative writing, camping, fishing, shopping.

Jennifer N. (MI-1165)

Maureen Nicole A. (MI)

vanessa W. (IN-1166)

"I like to write and correspond with upbeat fun loving TVs."
Roberta L.(ND-1071)

RANDI (MI) 49
Member: Crossroads
M/m, 5'11", 150, late 30's, dark hair & brown eyes, educated professional. Interests: Travel, outdoors activities, music & golf. "I like to talk and meet with others, attractive and experienced in the feminine persuasions, TV and TS."
Randi (MI-1074)

MAUREEN NICOLE ARNETTE (MI) 51
Member: Tri Ess, Chi Chapter, Crossroads, NGA
Participant: Holiday En Femme '85 '86, 'Be All' '86
SWM, 49, professional. "I have attained my feminine self to surface over the past two years. This has been a positive and rewarding experience for me and I have made wonderful friends through it. I am exploring the transgender process, am involved in a clinic program, started electrolysis and hormones. Happy to communicate with anyone."
Maureen Nicole Arnette, 4275 Dobie Rd, Okemos, MI 48864

RITA O. (IN) 49
Member: CHIC, NGA
DWM, 47, TS. Interests: Loves tent camping, travel, country music and military history. "I'm a 4-year recovering alcoholic willing to 'care & share'. Looking for pen pals nationwide. Will answer all, prompt. limited travel possible." Rita O. (IN-1183)

GLORIA W. (IL) 49
Member: Tri Ess
Participant: 'Be All', NGA 'Spring Fling'
Hetero, 34, 5'3", passable, fun-loving. Interests: Singing, dancing, jogging, photography, karate, science, writing. "I publish 'The Crossdresser's Bureau', and edit the NGA newsletter. I love correspondence, and travel periodically as part of my employment."
G. Wright, P.O. Box 172, Gurnee, IL 60031

HALEY (NM) 49
Member: ETVC
TV, 49ish, 5'8", 175, blonde, size 18-20. Interests: Shopping, cooking, fashion magazines, getting my hair & nails done, being Haley, and most of all spending time with my wife. "I'd like to meet other TVs in the central USA and help make TVism easier for others than it has been for me. Will answer all."
Haley (NM-1079)

TERRI SUZANNE S. (MI) 49
Member: Crossroads
Participant: 'Be All'
Personable feminine active crossdresser with a good sense of humor. Interests: Fashion, communicating with other crossdressers, sharing thoughts & experiences, writing articles about TV/TS lifestyle, joys, frustrations & problems. "I'm interested in helping other gals find & accept themselves.

Patti F. (MN-0735)

Enjoy going places - shopping, restaurants, movies, shows, etc. as me." Terri Scott, P.O. Box 728, Birmingham, MI 48012

TONI H. (OH) 50

Single, 6'1", 195, 58. Closet executive TV wants to meet same with understanding wife for dressing, dinner and conversation. If you have a private place within 50 miles of Columbus, you have a new friend.

Toni H. (OH-1066)

VANESSA W. (IN) 50

Member: St Louis Gateway Femmes 5'9", slender, blue eyes, blond, white CD, passable in public, very discreet & expect same. Interests: Lingerie, corsetry, high heels, enjoy role playing & shopping with girlfriend. S. IN, S. IL, & W. KY, can travel, looking for someone to share experiences with. Also interested in meeting real women interested in CDs.

Vanessa W. (IN-1166)

KATHERYN ANN B. (MI) 50

Member: Tri Ess, Crossroads

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Coming Together

29, married to a wonderful spouse, interested in correspondence & meeting those in W. MI. Also, sewing, baking, reading, writing. "I'm a giver, who has been given much. Believe once sincere deed is worth many good thoughts."

Katheryn B. (MI-1277)

MARCY S. (MN) 50

35, 6', trim, blue eyes, brown hair, business professional. Enjoys needlework, cooking, music and sports. "I'm very actively involved in my business community so value discretion highly. Have a wonderful wife who is very supportive and understanding. Will correspond with anyone."

Marcy, PO Box 2814, Minneapolis, MN 55402

ANGELA JOHNSON (MO) 50

Member: St Louis Gateway Femmes "My interests are Photography, softball, bowling, weight training. I would like to hear from all TVs, TSs, crossdressers & sympathetic women to write and share experiences and problems."

Angela Johnson (MO-1162)

KAREN MICHELLE R. (IL) 50

Member: Chi Chapter Tri-Ess

5'9", 150, 29 crossdresser. Interests: Science fiction books and movies, skiing, hockey, soccer, and being complete. "Being Karen is what it's all about. If I can help, please allow me to try. Will write to all."

Karen R. (IL-1514)

RONI C. (MO) 50

Member: SLGF

Married TV, hetero, 44, 5'11", 160. Enjoys music, photography, going out with friends, sewing, writing, sailing, entertaining at home, and cars. "I am very fortunate to have an understanding and supportive spouse. Would like to build the St. Louis Gateway Femmes into a strong support group. I will try to answer anyone that writes."

Roni, P.O. Box 1262

GLORIA LYNN GIBSON (IN) 50

Member: Tri-Ess

SWM, tall, auburn hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys camping, hiking, reading, golfing, movies. "I'm hoping to meet an understanding and sympathetic woman. Also look forward to meeting and sharing girl talk with 'sisters'. Wish to explore my femininity more deeply. Just coming out and looking for mutual support."

Karen R. (IL-1514)

Roni Crawford (MO-1479)

Francine A. (MI-1545)

Justina Williams (MI-1482)

Karen B. (IL-1398)

Gloria G. (IN-1480)

CHRISTINE JOHNSON (MI) 50
Member: Crossroads
Participant: Fantasia Fair
SWM, 5'10", 25. Enjoys travel, bicycling, skiing, camping, history, quiet walks in the woods. "I am an open and friendly person. I have learned to enjoy the feminine part of me and wish to develop it as much as possible. I will be moving to Seattle, and would like to have friends when I get there."
Christine Johnson, Box 8715, Royal Oak, MI 48068

MARTHA M. (WI) 51
TV, 5'6", 36, 150. Enjoys crossdressing, camping, gardening, classical music, woodworking. "I have only recently come to accept that I am a TV. Still pretty much in the closet. Have a lot to learn. If you can help, drop me a note."
Martha M. (WI-1459)

DENISE P. (MN) 50
MWM TV-TS, 5'11", 200, 37, college degree, business professional. Enjoys shopping, sports, movies, videos, cross-dressing. Most important, being with my wife and three children. 'Married to loving, understanding wife 8 years. Just coming out of closet and need help in all areas (including voice) to pass. Enjoy dressing and passing as professional business executive woman."
Denise P., c/o DVP, P.O. Box 2667, Minneapolis, MN 55402

GERI WATERS (IL) 50
Member: SLGF
6', 190 (and losing), brown hair, hazel eyes, Leo, good natured. enjoys art, writing, cars, good friends. Looking for sisters & friends in the St. Louis area to share ideas and get-togethers. Pass well in public and enjoy going out. I'm also a columnist for a national publication.
Geri Waters, 5 Chambers Blvd, Belleville, IL 62221

Denise P. (MN-1444)

KAREN ANNE BAUMGARDNER (IL) 50
Member: CGS
SWM, 5'7", 135, 35. enjoys second-hand shopping, baseball, travel, reading, writing, Chicago history.
Karen B. (IL-1398)

LORI K. (OH) 50
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM, 34, wife somewhat supportive. Enjoys reading, cooking, vegetable gardening. "I have been on hormones, and I'm passable on occasion. My weak points are makeup & hair styling. Need help in these areas. Seeking more opportunities to go out in public en femme. Will correspond with others."
Lori K. (OH-0712)

DIANE FERGUSON (OH) 50
Member: Cross-Port
5'7", 140, blond hair, blue eyes, single. enjoys all types of sports, especially snow skiing. would like to find a pen pal, someone who is TV & considering TS.
Diane Ferguson, P.O. Box 4617, Maineville, OH 45039

JUDY KAYE (MN) 50
Married closet TV, 5'11", 240, 49, enjoys travel & photography. Has never dressed but have thought about it for 35 years.
Judy K. (MN-1367)

VANESSA S. (MN) 49
Member: Tri-Ess
Married, 37, 5'11", 160 "I'm interested in reading, sports, and learning to express the too-long hidden femininity inside. I love music and good conversation. I'm a devout Christian and would love to hear from others who share the joys of Christianity and dressing."
Vanessa S. (MN-1168)

PATTI F. (MN) 48
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: DREAM '78
Hetero TV, 40, 5'10", 180. Enjoys lingerie, cosmetics, modeling school, psychology, and correspondence. "I would like to meet other TVs and their lady friends in the 5-state area. If you are a positive, optimistic, honest TV

Gloria Wright (IL-0613)

Geri W. (IL-1400)

Angela J. (MO-1162)

Elaine E. (IN-1462)

please write. Send photo (I'll return it). No guilt trippers please!"
Patti F. (MN-0735)

RANDI D. (MO) 51
Member: SLGF, Chi Chapter
MWM hetero TV, 6'6", 180, supportive wife. "I enjoy pictures, and am trying to use a computer. I like to go out dressed. Constantly trying to pass better."
Randi D. (MO-1013)

FRANCINE A. (MI) 51
Married hetero TV, 40, 5'11", 200 with partially understanding wonderful wife. Interests: Fishing, hunting, shooting, VH-1, spending time with my family and of course dressing up. "I'm not passable which is alright by me. I just love the way I feel when I'm dressed. I sure would like to know how to cover my 'shadow' after shaving so it won't show in photographs. Please write."
Francine A. (MI-1545)

MARIE (KS) 51
Member: Tri Ess
MWM hetero TV, masters degree, 37, 6'1", 165, blue eyes, brown hair. Interests: Guitar, photography, computers, collecting clothes! "Would like to correspond with other TVs. Have a loving & supportive wife who would like to correspond with other wives. Enjoy getting out as girlfriends."
Marie (KS-1549)

ARLENA M. PARRISH (IN) 51
Member: IXS, Cross-Port
"I enjoy crossdressing and being my feminine personality. Since I have just recently come out of the closet, I would love to correspond with and meet other sisters. I would appreciate any help in bettering my appearance. I will answer all letters very promptly and in a positive manner."
Ms Arlena M. Parrish, P.O. Box 27103, Indianapolis, IN 46227

ELAINE EDWARDS (IN) 51
Single, 5'6", 132, 34, non-smoker, professional horologist. Interests: Many and varied, sailing, soaring, camping, canoeing, antique clocks and watches. "My philosophy is aptly described by this quote by Thornton Wilder, 'My advice to you is not to inquire why or whither, but just to enjoy your ice cream while it is on your plate.'"
Elaine Edwards, 8105 Valley Farms Trail, Indianapolis, IN 46214

JUDY ADAMS (NM) 50
Member: Tri Ess
Participant: 'Be All -86', 'P-town Outing -86' Interests: Music, femininity, computers, woodworking, electronics, helping new sisters. "I've been out of the closet for two years and think I know what makes us tick. Am interested in TV theory and corresponding with others who believe they have insights into the subject."
Judy A. (NM-1179)

DEBRA S. (MN) 50
Married hetero TV, 32, 240, 6'2".
Interests: Stuffed animal collector, history, science fiction, and being comfortable and natural as a woman.
"I would like to meet other TVs in the Twin City area with a though toward forming a social club. I personally believe in accepting people as they are as long as they protect other people's security. I look forward to corresponding and eventually meeting."
Occupant, P.O. Box 6726, St. Paul, MN 55106

INTER-MOUNTAIN SOUTHWEST

NANCY ANN HARRIS (TX) 48
Member: Boulton & Park
Lifelong TV, 54, disabled veteran (Korea), retired. Would like to meet other girls. Am divorced and would like to find a GG who could accept me and love me. I am loving, homelike, a good girl, and a nice person. I value honesty and trustworthiness, and most of all loyalty."
Nancy Ann H. (TX-0877)

BETTE JOHNSON (N TX) 48
Member: Tiffany, Dallas Chapter-Tri Ess, IFGE Board of Directors, Coordinator 'Coming Together' Convention
Participant: Tiffany P-town '85-'87
Attractive TV, 50's, sensitive, caring, outgoing, and very comfortable in the joys of being a woman. "I enjoy the pleasures of being dressed and feeling feminine, and am told I pass well. Enjoy parties and socials with other TV ladies, and being in public en-femme (with discretion). Am now dedicated to serving "our" world and in particular, helping those who are just starting to come out, and who may need help and

Wendi Danielle Pierce
Chairman, IFGE Board of Directors

advice."
Bette J. (TX-0543)

JENNIFER F. (NM) 48
Member: Tri Ess
6'2", 210, married, occasionally passable. "I enjoy all people, rock 'n roll, cooking and quiet times. Femininity is a passion. Love silk hose, heels and old movies. I'm interested in going out with other cross-dressers. Will travel. Will answer all."
Jennifer F., P.O. Box 37497, Albuquerque, NM 87176

RENE F. (TX) 48
Member: Tri Ess, CHIC
Married, mid 50's, tall, has been interested in crossdressing entire life. Out of the closet 7 years. Enjoys dining, dancing, fishing, amateur radio.
Rene F. (TX-0989)

JANICE HILARY RUPARD (TX) 48
Member: Boulton & Park
MWM, lifelong CD, 5'9", late 50's. Sensitive, caring, with a gentle nature and a bit shy. Retired. "I so enjoy doing things feminine! And now, working with Boulton & Park, I have met some really neat ladies in person, as well as the lovely folks I correspond with. I'm a bit slow to answer, but will answer all. Your photo will be enjoyed."
Jan Rupard, P.O. Box 63112, Wetmore, TX 78163

Janice R. (TX-0567)

ROSALIND HART (NM) 50
Member: Tri Ess
Participant: 'Be All', WSG P-town Outing
Married TV, 59, but appear younger. 5'6", 155, slightly graying brown hair. Relatively uninhibited under proper circumstances. Wife's acceptance ambivalent. Non-smoker. Interests: Skills required to pass well. Endocrine, psychological, & genetic basis of transvestite behavior. Enjoys computers, science fiction, shopping, dining out, music and good conversation with like-minded persons.
Rosalind H. (NM-0768)

JENNIFER S. (AZ) 48
DWM, 6', 170, 44, warm, sharing, caring. Enjoys good food, music, cuddling, and dressing to the max. Good wardrobe extensive lingerie, heels, wigs, makeup, etc. Would like to meet other TVs or TSs.
Jennifer S. (AZ-1056)

DIANE I. (AZ) 49
Member: Alpha Zeta (President)
Interested in women's fashions, music, cooking, writing, classic movies, travel. Enjoys shopping, going to plays and musicals, and out to dinner as a girl. Has spoken to college classes on cross-dressing. Diane I. (AZ-1070)

JACQUELINE ANNE A. (TX) 49
Member: Boulton-Park
Strawberry blonde, 5'9", 77 Kg (I think, anything to avoid the fact), brown eyes. Interests: Cars, jazz & classical music, politics, westerns, kids. "When I first started dealing with national organizations I intended to become a good correspondent - failure! I would like to hear

Nancy Hart (TX-1287)

from you though." Jacqueline Anne Allen, P.O. Box 6948, San Antonio, TX 78209

SAMANTHA W. (N. TX) 49
Member: Dallas-Ft Worth Chapter
Participant: Fantasia Fair, DREAM, 'Be All', Shangri La, 'Coming Together'
Married TV, 5'11", size 18. Interests: My children and my crossdressing. I enjoy traveling in my RV. Member of a renewed effort to establish a crossdressing group in the Dallas/Ft Worth area. A sporadic corresponder.
Ms S. Walls, 821 St Moritz, #122, Crowley, TX 76036

TOMMIE F. (WY) 49
Member: Tri Ess

Harriett Gale (TX)

Michelle Meller (TX-1305)

Interests: High heels, hose & pretty lingerie. Also, photography, historical & model railroading, military history. "I love to look & feel feminine, to see myself & others in feminine finery. I would like to meet, correspond & exchange photos with sisters world-wide. I will answer all letters." Tommie F., P.O. Box 1503, Riverton, WY 82501

CHARLES WORKMAN (CO) 49

Attractive Indian, 5'9", 150, brown eyes, good complexion, black hair. "I'm interested in anything and everything but religion. I would like to correspond and make lasting friendships with TVs & TSs around the world."

Charles R. Workman, Box 600-42066-F-2, Canon City, CO 81212

KAY METSKER (TX) 49

Member: Outreach, NGA, Tri Ess

Participant: Fantasia Fair

Awards: 'Miss Cinderella' FF '86

SWM, 35, 5'10", 145, quiet, sensitive, caring. Enjoys skiing, computers, reading, dancing, traveling, games. "I would love to meet others in the Dallas area for support and social contacts."

Kay Metsker (TX-1208)

TERRI D. (NV) 49

Member: Tri Ess, NGA

Participant: Pajaro Dunes, DREAM, Stallion Springs

Auburn hair, grey eyes, 5'11", 175, 40+, a nice person who loves dressing. Interests: Flying, ham radio, books, country & string music, travel, and attending TV meetings. "I love meeting other 'girls', & show them the Vegas area. Am very careful when showing them around."

T. Downs, P.O. Box 4116, N. Las Vegas, NV 89030-0116

ROBIN EMMONS (TX) 49

"I enjoy flowers, cooking, gardening, & movies (video). I am also a pre-op TS and need all the help/information I can get. Please write."

Robin Emmons, P.O. Box 11814, Ft Worth, TX 76109-0814

BRENDA H. (N. TX) 49

Member: Tri Ess, Dallas-Ft Worth Chapter

Participant: 'Coming Together'

TS, 40, 5'10", 160, blonde, blue eyes. Chemist. Interests: Tennis, cooking, music, hairstyling. "I'm involved in the Dallas/Galveston TS program. Have finally decided to relent to the overwhelming desire to be my female self."

Brenda H. (TX-1247)

WENDI DANIELLE P. (AZ) 50

Member: Alpha Zeta, A Rose, Chairman I.F.G.E. Board of Directors

Participant: Fantasia Fair, 'Coming Together'

DWM, CD, 5'8", 145, 38, brown hair & eyes, striving to be passable. Interests: Many, including camping, boating, photography, computers, cooking, travel, music, and exploring beautiful Arizona. "I've been exploring my femme side for about a year and have truly enjoyed what I have found. My fascination with cross-dressing is only equaled by my wanting to enjoy life to the fullest. My motto is 'Go for It!', so let's get together. Would like to meet TVs, TSs, or females. Can travel. Please contact me."

Wendi Danielle P., c/o A Rose, P.O. Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261

NANCY HART (TX) 50

Member: Tri Ess

I live alone, and dress as I wish. Go shopping dressed, flown dressed. Passable but not perfect, getting better. Interested in fashion, makeup, behavior, philosophy, psychology, personal growth, meeting femme

Diane I. (AZ--1070)

friends, computers. Wish to perfect the image and expression of my feminine side. Enjoy talking & working with everyone in the cross-gender community. Nancy Hart, PO Box 401227, Dallas, TX 75240

APRIL M. (UT) 50
Member: Tri Ess
5'9", over weight but dieting, light brown hair, blue eyes. Interests: Reading, listening to music, collecting old books. "I am very inexperienced at crossdressing. I need to learn fundamentals of makeup, wardrobe, hair care, etc. Any and all help or information will be appreciated."
April M. (UT-1288)

MICHELLE M. (TX) 50
Blonde, blue eyes, rosy complexion, 5'8" tall, medium build, 40, size 14, 38B, athletic. Interests: Singing, travel, ballet and jazz dance classes, women's fashions, writing. Just graduating from bra and panties to heels, hair, makeup. Need advice on how to appear feminine in public. Will answer all letters.
M. Meller, P.O. Box 833842, Suite 148, Richardson, TX 75080

JOHN S. (NV) 51
WM non-crossdresser, 5'10", 170, dark hair, brown eyes, very versatile, professional. Enjoys aerobics, weight-lifting, outdoor activities, traveling, nice restaurants, etc. "Beautiful TV/TS let me take part in your exciting feminine world so that we both can enrich our lives. Please reply with photo." John S. (NV-1483)

PATTY MARLANE (OK) 51
MWM hetero TV, 51, 5'7", with desire to pass but needs encouragement & help. Enjoys music, drama, sports & fashions, enforced crossdressing. "Would like to correspond with someone with like interest & would appreciate source for material fact or fiction on enforced crossdressing."
Patty M. (OK-1402)

HARRIETT GALE (TX) 50
Member: Boulton & Park
Participant: 'Coming Together 87'
MWM lifelong CD with Transsexual tendencies, 5'11", 66, size 22, wife is not accepting. Friendly and understanding of others. Enjoys dressing, shopping, travel and dancing. Due to circumstances I have not been able to dress as often as I would like; only when out of town and in groups of my sisters. Would love to correspond and meet with other sisters.
Harriett Gale, P.O. Box 292, San Antonio, TX 78291

MARY FRANCES WILLIAMS (TX) 51
Member: Boulton & Park
MWM TV, 5'10", eyes of blue, all other figures begin with 4. Married, wife shares interest and clothes. Enjoys attending meetings, writing editorials and stories, avoiding writing letters, food and clothing. Nominee for worst correspondent of the year for the last four years. Jacqueline Allen won!
Mary Frances Williams, P.O. Box 169672, San Antonio, TX 78280-3272

MICHELLE H. (TX) 51
Member: Boulton & Park
6'2", 185, brown eyes and hair. Enjoys golf, swimming & beaching, travel, shopping, correspondence. Lives in the Houston TX area & travels the state of Texas regularly.
Michelle H. (TX-1446)

JO-ANN Z. (TX) 50
6'4", 34, single, started crossdressing at about 12 years old. Enjoys old movies on TV, antiques, old houses, and shooting in matches. Needs help incoming out of closet.
JoAnn Z. (TX-1369)

JO ANNE RUSSELL (OK) 51
"Hi, I am 35 going on 25, 145, 5'7", dark hair, blue eyes. I am looking for a friend who can share my secrets and have fun. I am not looking for sex, drugs, or drunks. If you need a friend, write me. I live in NW OK."
Jo Anne R. (OK-1550)

JEAN C. (WY) 51
S GG (single female), 29. Enjoys gardening, writing, reading, cats. "Would be willing to help crossdressers in whatever way I can. Strongly feel that people should have a right to dress and look the way they want. I am not a CD myself, but maybe I can offer some kind of support for all you wonderful people out there, even if it's just through a letter."
Jean C. (WY-1551)

Kay M. (TX-1208)

FAR WEST

TARA TENILLE (N. CA) 48
Member: GGA, Society of Janus (Co-ordinator Sacramento Branch), ETVC
Participant: Spring Fling '85, 'Coming Together'
Bi-TV, mid 30's, single, can entertain or travel. Interests: Photography, music, dancing, travel, learning, corsets, high heels, nights out on the town, adventure, and people who are a little bit crazy. "I want to travel more and meet new, sincere, serious friends and dates - nationwide and worldwide. I enjoy erotic dress more than formal dress and always love to compare notes with those of like interests. Most of my clothes are custom-made. Will answer all,, hut photo and SASE appreciated."
Tara Tenille, Box 13033, Sacramento, CA 95813-3033

ANDI K. (N. CA) 48
Member: Tri Ess, ETVC

Awards: Miss ETVC '84

Hetero, 36, 5'7" "I am interested in meeting other TVs in the San Francisco Bay area for outings and mutual assistance. I will attempt to

Rachael Ann C. (CA--1294

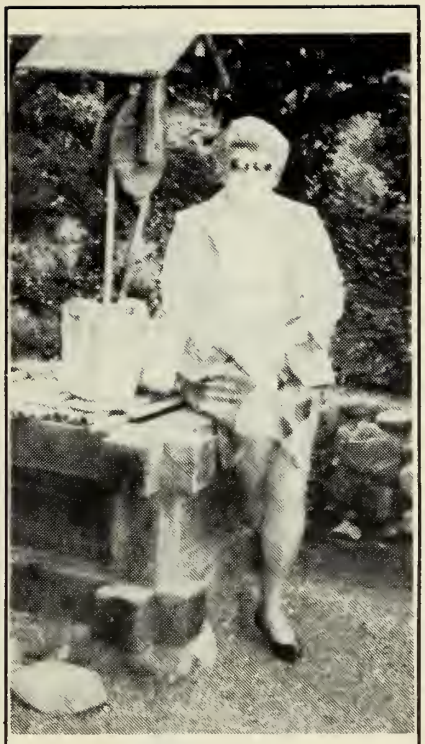
Rachael Ann C. (CA-1294)answer all correspondence."

Andi K. (CA-0656)

KAY GOULD (CA) 48

Very feminine and totally passable. Enjoys all aspects of feminine lifestyle. Strong personality with ultra femme tastes. Interests: Fine music, dining, theatre, and high fashion. "I date extensively, and travel heavily throughout the US. I appreciate male escorts in most cities. Am very accomplished in all feminine ways but

TErri C. (CA-1293)



Joan S. (CA-0391)

demanding in personality. I also write for several national publications."

Kay Gould, Box 255, Sacramento, CA 95802

LISA A. (N. CA) 48

SWM, 31, 6', 130 Interests: Post-industrial music, computers, alternate realities and a host of other things. "I never suspected that coming out the closet would feel so good! I'd enjoy

Ellen S. (OR-0382)

hearing from sub-geniuses, discordians and others of a similar bent."

Lisa A. (CA-0939)

MARLENE L. (S. CA) 48

Member: Alpha Chapter

Interested in tennis, theater (acting), and chess. "I am 55, and cohabiting with a very understanding girlfriend. I dress en femme every day after work and every weekend. I occasionally visit San Francisco and Los Angeles en femme and have had no trouble. I often

Andi K. (CA-0656)

work as secretary and correspondent for Tri Ess National."

Marlene L. (CA-1036)

KAREN K. (CA) 48

Member: Tri Ess

SWM hetero TV, 43, 5'9", 182. Pleasant personality who enjoys meeting people. Interested in photography, camping, & hiking, running, all sports, good instrumental music, reading, & stamp collecting. "I enjoy writing and meeting with sisters. I also travel a great deal. I also enjoy going out dressed, but I'm careful."

Karen K. (CA-0322)

GLORIA H. (WA) 48

M-F TS oriented, 34, 6'2", 235, brown hair &

eyes, shy. Enjoys sewing & making things, movies, cooking, biking. "I would like to hear from other TSs, both pre & post op, especially in the central California area. I need the support of other TSs in helping me to understand my feminine feelings that I have had since early childhood. I will answer all letters as time permits."

Gloria H. (WA-1010)

ELIZABETH N. JOHNSON (S. CA) 48

Pre-op M-F TS, 28, 6', friendly but shy. Television Engineer. Passable with voice, mannerisms & body frame, but in need of makeup & hair styling tips. Interests: Fanatic in fashion sales, indoor plants, sing opera (use my own soprano female voice), computers, bicycles. "Would like to start a friendship with TSs, TVs, and others who are warm, friendly and sincere. Write, call, send video tape (any format), or audio cassette."

Elizabeth J. (CA-1030)

SANDY S. (WA) 48

Elizabeth J. (CA-1030)

Member: Emerald City

Loves nylons, heels, cloths, and the total look. Wishes to meet others, exchange pictures, get out for an evening or weekend.

Sandy S. (WA-1022)

DENISE ST. CLAIR (S. CA) 48

Hetero cross-dresser. Enjoys music, dancing, socializing with other TVs, TSs, etc. Would like to correspond with others, and with genetic women. I live with my girl friend who is very understanding.

Denise St. Clair, 6520 Selma Ave #1243, Los Angeles, CA 90028

JUDY OSBORNE (WA) 48

Member: Emerald City (Treasurer), NWGA, Tri Ess

Interests: Going out dressed to kill, sailing, cooking scuba diving, parties, people. "Can't participate much for now because of (hopefully) short-term problems with my teen-aged daughter."

Judy Osborne, P.O. Box 19394, Seattle, WA 98109

Joycie Mc. (CA-1073)

JENNIFER J. (S. CA) 48

MWM, 5'10", 190, 34, blue eyes. Interests: Fashion magazines, lingerie, bowling, camping. "Hope to meet others who enjoy dressing and be friends. Will answer all."

Jennifer Jessop, 12226 Victory blvd, Suite 281, No.
Hollywood, CA 91606

ROBIN N. (S. CA) 48

Member: Tri Ess

SWM, 29, wishing to meet with or correspond with other TVs/TSs who enjoy their feminine self. Interested in travelling, photography, history, science fiction, writing, music and being feminine. "Will answer all who write. Will send photo to those who do likewise. Discretion a must."

Robin N. (CA-1068)

JESSICA MERTEN (S. CA) 48

Member: ETVC, Neutral Corner, Shangri-La.

Pretty, very passable, 46 y/o TS, forced by circumstances to stay pre-op for the foreseeable future. Especially like to hear from anyone in Southern California in similar situation.

Jessica Merten, P.O. Box 9475, Palm Springs, CA 92263

JOYCIE McGINN (S. CA) 48

Member: Tri Ess, Shangri La

Participant: Shangri La, DREAM

Awards: 'Miss Dream' 1st runner-up, 'Miss Congeniality' Interests: Photo sessions, sports, sports cars, classics, shopping with TVs & TSs. Also, gardening, re-decorating apts., auto mechanics. "Would love to hear from TVs & TSs, but must send photo. All letters will be answered ASAP. Will show girls around S. CA area."

Joycie McGinn, 9847 Flora vista Sp. 31, Bellflower, CA 90706

RITA F. (S. CA) 49

Participant: Shangri-La, 'Be All', Spring P-town

Open minded, loves all things feminine, especially high heels and nylons. Also enjoys fishing, engine building, art, music. "I travel extensively, and would like to meet others interested in being fem."

Rita F (CA-0600)

LORRAINE ELLEN H. (N. CA) 49

Member: ETVC MWM hetero TV. Only very recently emerged from the closet and am over-awed but savoring every moment that I can publicly adopt a female role. Would like to participate in more activities considered traditionally feminine. Would enjoy exchanging experiences and ideas with sister TSs and TVs of similar bent.

Lorraine H. (CA-1150)

SUSAN T. (S. CA) 49

Member: Neutral Corner, Tri Ess

Long time TV, 60, 5'8", 180, size 20, scientific

Tara Tenille (CA-0752)

Wendy R. (CA-1290)

Lorraine H. (CA-1150)

researcher. Interests: Hiking, science, reading, music, skiing. Will answer all.
W. Thomas, P.O. Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109

ELLEN S. (OR) 49
Member: NWGA, Emerald City, I.F.G.E. Board of Directors Participant: DREAM, P-town Spring Outing, Pajaro Dunes, Chicago Spring Fling, 'Coming Together'.
Awards: 'DREAM' Grand Dame '83
Late 50's, married with 3 children, all know of Ellen and understand. Interests: Travel, big band era music - has large collection of old 40s, 50s & 60s recordings. "I will answer all letters addressed to me or to NWGA."
Ellen S., c/o NWGA, P.O. Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208-4928

JOAN SHELDON (N. CA) 49
Member: ETVC, RGA
MWM hetero, 65, pleasant. Enjoys friendship of TVs & spouses who are out of the closet & proud of the fact. Interests: Flying, sailing, computer freque. Enjoys contact with self-accepting TVs. Sponsor of TV weekend retreats at a beach community in CA, and at Lake Tahoe. Holds events 4 times a year. Purpose: Social interaction & development of feminine persona & feminine deportment.
Joan S. (CA-0391)

BEATRICE ELAINE G. (S. CA) 49
50+, long blonde hair, Celtic/English background, and envies those who pass. Interests: Music, reading, writing. A CD with curtains drawn & doors locked, wears garter top stockings and frothy lingerie every day. Loves to write. Will answer all. Beatrice E. Gibson, (CA-1235)

TANYA L. (WA) 49
Member: Emerald City
SWM hetero, 22, 5'8", size 9. Enjoys running, reading (science & history), and dressing as often as possible. "I am in a position (military) in which I will not be able to dress very often for the next few months. I would like to hear from others who can help me get over the empty feeling I get when I am unable to dress."
Tanya L. (WA-1210)

JOANNA ALICE G. (S. CA) 49
6'2", blue-eyed, long auburn haired BBW. Sensitive, warm, & discreet. Interests: Medievalist, Baroque to early rock music, cooking. Also, corresponding, visiting girlfriends, quiet walks, old movies, shopping. "Am just beginning to fully express 'Joanna' as the best part of me. As Joanna blossoms, all of me grows - deeper, fuller, warmer, nicer."
J.A. Gaylord, 1721 7th St, San Fernando, CA 91340

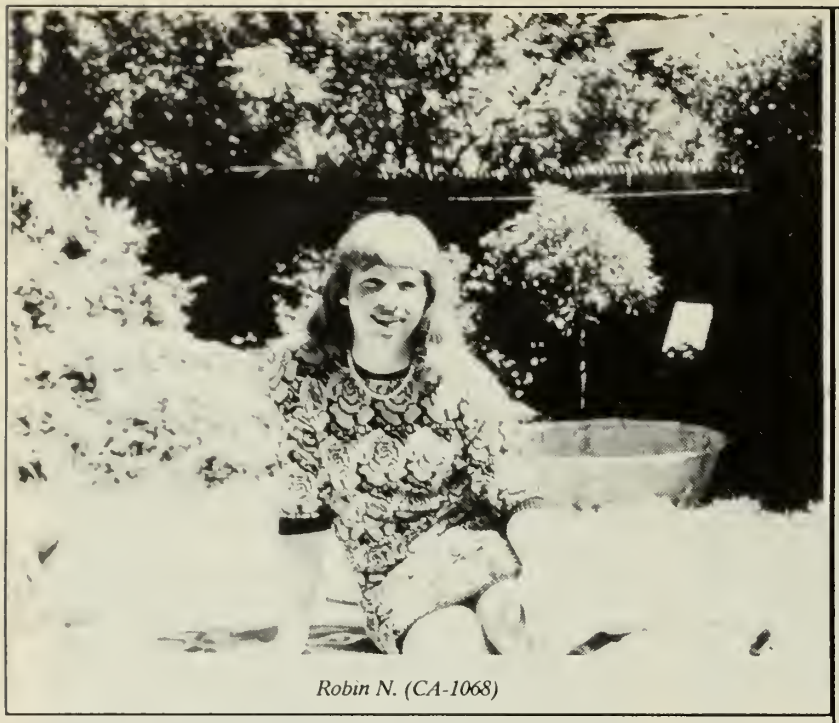
KAY L. (WA) 50
Member: Tri Ess, Emerald City
Interests: Theology, cats, the Wizard of Oz, Halloween, pondering theology/sexuality questions. "A very supportive spouse. Kay doesn't go out often, but would like to discuss TV/TS questions & issues with others. A slow but reliable correspondent."
Kay L. (WA-98119)

JACIE H. (CA) 50
Member: ETVC
39, 5'9", 155, blonde & attractive. Hormones 3 years,
electrolysis 50% complete. Interests: Finance, stock markets, real estate, sports cars, & restorations (english), art (oils & clay), some sailing. "I would like to meet other pre & post op TS's along the Calif. Gold Coast (Ventura & Santa Barbara area) for informational exchanges & for discrete social acquaintance. No casual crossdressers please."
Jacie H. (CA-1103)

DAVID B. (S. CA) 50
WM bi, 6'1" 180, 31, attractive, athletic. Seeks pre-op TS for friendship and dating.
Dave B. Box 86490, San Diego, CA 92138

LAURA C. (N. CA) 50
Member: Tri-Ess DBM, hetero, 38, 5'8", 145, attractive, sincere, friendly. Interests: Fashion, photography, movies, video, music, reading, sports, sport cars, auto racing. "I would like to correspond and meet other TVs or TSs and ladies that understand. I enjoy making new friends throughout the U.S. I love sharing with others the joys of trying to look as feminine as possible."
Laura Covington, Box 10431, Oakland, CA 94610

WENDY REED (N. CA) 50
Member: Rainbow Gender Alliance
MWM TV, 6'1", 170, 39. I'm a caring, educated, articulate person, had been accepted for the 'change', but living now semi-closet, married to accepting wife, working as male. Interests include photography, video, writing, all music, sci-fi, fine jewelry, sewing, pen-pals. I am open and giving to all; TVs, TSs, novices, interested persons, straight-gay-bi, fantasies, and always try to respond promptly. I love new



Robin N. (CA-1068)

Cynthia H. (CA-1453)

Robin N. (CA-1068)friends and would love to lend support and/or guidance.
Wendy R. (CA-1290)

SALLY RAY (WA) 50
Member: Tri Ess, Emerald City
MWM TV, hetero, 5'8", 160, 32. Interests: Travel, photography, garage sales, and "hunting as Diana" -shopping the malls in high heels and skirt. "Seeking someone like myself in the SEWA area, who passes easily, to "just be girls" with and to experience those things feminine."
Sally R. (WA-1292)

TERRI CANNON (S. CA) 50
MWM, 5'11", 40's, well educated, sensitive, discreet, stable. Good sense of humor. Interests: Cooking, fine arts, photography (have taught classes), 'New Age' philosophy, psychology, film, tennis, golf. "Due to family, I do not dress at home, but do have secure place to dress occasionally. Enjoy being supportive friend to other TVs/TSs. Appreciate a natural look, warmth, honesty, humor. Long term friendships possible. All replies answered!"
Terri C. (CA-1293)

Sally R. (WA-1292)

RACHEL ANN CARR (N. CA) 50
Member: Tri Ess, ETVC
Married, 58, 5'10", size 18, app. 175, neat, do not smoke or drink. Interested in meeting other TV couples for social good times and quiet get-togethers. I like reading, travel, television. Am fairly new to crossdressing and feel I am improving in both wardrobe and makeup ability. Would appreciate any input relative to these and any other areas which would develop my feminine side. Will answer all.
Rachel Ann Carr, 910 Monterey St, Suite 1 B-#152, Hollister, CA 95023

SARAH SHIPMAN (WA) 50
Very private person, not much to look at. Enjoy being left alone. Interested in running, skiing, reading. Need advice and or help to improve bustline.
Sarah S. (WA-1297)

ESPE L. (S. CA) 50
Likes going out to local pubs dressed, attending TV parties, and balls. Interested in fashion, makeup, chit-chat, tennis, fishing, music, jazz, carpentry. Has full support of spouse, and has been looking for a lot of new friends that share the same interests.
Espe L. (CA-1299)

SHARON L. MORGAN (N. CA) 50
Have been a TV most of my life. Am not a school girl by any stretch of imagination, but after all, TVism has no age. Interested in corsets, 19th century vintage. Would love to hear from and correspond with others that like to wear corsets. Any and all letters will be faithfully

answered.
Occupant, PO Box 623, Yountville, CA 94599

SHARON M. (N. CA) 51
SWM mostly hetero TV, 27, 6', 150 or so, brown hair/eyes, fresh out of the closet. Discreet, intelligent, not bad looking. enjoys Aikido, peace movement and other liberal/radical politics, computer programming, biology, philosophy and introspection, and learning to cross-dress passably. "I'm not looking for pen pals. Very interested in dating (no smokers please) any of the following: Women (TSs OK) who are favorably disposed to TVs. Female TVs who enjoy role switching. Other TVs with only one of us cross-dressed at a time.
Sharon M. (CA-1472)

NORA JEAN YORK (AK) 51
Fun and friendly, but private type person. Strong emotional feelings and deep desires. Enjoys art, cooking, gardening. Has own computer & TV magazine collection. Would like to share my feelings and desires. Possible meeting.
Nora York, P.O. Box 230084, Anchorage, AK 99523

JACKIE M. (WA) 50
DWM, 42, 5'8", 170. enjoys philosophy, science, Movies as art, theater, all music, sports. "Forced CD as teenager. Just getting started again, and not sure where I'm headed. Want to correspond with beginners and all who delight in wearing lingerie, and strutting their stuff. Will answer all.
Jackie M. (WA-1448)

Espe L. (CA-1299)

Karen K. (CA-0322)

CYNTHIA HOWARD (S. CA) 51
Member: Tri-Ess
Hetero TV with TS tendencies. Married, outgoing. Enjoys politics, photography, law, aesthetics. Loves to dress & go out & have a good time. "I want to express myself as Cynthia fully & completely and am getting more involved in our Community. Interested in correspondence & meeting TSs, TVs, & couples. We can help each other."
Cynthia H. (CA - 1453)

MARCIA M. (S. CA) 51
5'8", 145, light complexion, nice figure. Enjoys soft silky female attire, especially slips, panties and nylons, polaroid and video photography. "Would like to exchange experiences and fantasies via correspondence with literate and imaginative TVs. Also desire to exchange high quality self-made photos and cassettes."
Marcia M. (CA-1454)

JAMIE LYNN (WA) 50
Bi feminine, passable TV. Enjoys sailing, shopping, cooking, fine wines, & skiing. "I enjoy every aspect of my femininity and enjoy correspondence with other TV/TSs near or far."
J.L. Lease, P.O. Box 568, Clallam Bay, WA 98326

NANCY WILSON (S. CA) 50
Member: Tri Ess, Neutral Corner, ETVC
5'9", 150, 44, dark hair & eyes. Enjoys art, music, psychology, and furthering understanding and acceptance of CDs. Publish Neutral Corner newsletter.

Marlene L. (CA-1036)

Ellen Ann McKinnon (CA)

Nancy W. (CA-1374)

MARILYN V. (S. CA) 50
Member: ETVC

MWM CD, 5'11", 215, brown hair, brown eyes, businessman, moral, honest, non-judgmental, and friendly. Enjoys music, golf, flying, crossdressing, and theology. "I am married with a family, and am just starting to let Marilyn emerge, but still much fear & reservation about being recognized."

Marilyn V., P.O. Box 3286, Bakersfield, CA 93385

CHERYL C. (WA) 50
Member: Tri Ess

Married TV, 5'4", 42, married to a slightly supportive wife. Enjoys golf, collecting old history books, sports, video games, bowling, music and fashion of the 40's. "I am retired military (drill sgt) and am interested in dressing often and would like to correspond with others. I would like to hear about your first time out experiences and how I can learn from them. I will answer all letters promptly. Being fairly new I have no pictures, but would appreciate receiving one.

Cheryl C., 117 Telegraph Rd, #440, Bellingham, WA 98226

ALLISON O'BRIEN (N. CA) 51

SWM TS, 51, well educated, sensitive, discreet, stable, and living as a woman full time. Interested in correspondence and helping others. "Finally made it working and living full time as a woman and I love it! The future looks bright. Am willing to help all and answer all promptly. Love to hear from you."

Allison O'Brien, P.O. Box 6517, Aurburn, CA 95604

ANGELIQUE G. BRUMMELL (S. CA) 48

SWM, full-time TV, feminist, 5'11", 160, 40, brown hair, blue eyes, strong, honest, caring, emotional, sensitive. Enjoys dinosaurs, inflatable boating (I own 3), playing with children, cuddling animals & helping people. Loves feeling pretty. "I am very spiritual & I am strongly involved with the unity church here in Santa Barbara & very much uphold their philosophy. I am also a very good & committed letter correspondent."

Angelique G. Brummell, 1001 Bailard Ave, A-1, Carpinteria, CA 93013

ELLEN A. MCKINNON (S. CA) 50

MWM, 34, attractive and very passable. Enjoys music, sports, reading, photography, high fashion. "I enjoy going out in public in all situations. Would love to meet and go out with CA sisters, and to correspond. I will attempt to answer all correspondence promptly."

Ms Ellen Ann McKinnon, P.O. Box 261326, San Diego, CA 92126

STEPHANIE BERTRAND (S. CA) 51

SW TS-oriented hetero, 35, 5'11", 150, pretty. Enjoys music, writing, world issues, and much more. "I'm just now taking the first steps. Would love to correspond and/or meet with any TV-TS (especially pre or post-op TS) who can help with questions or just share experiences."

Stephanie Bertrand, P.O. Box 46868, Los Angeles, CA 90046

BARBARA CHAPMAN (N. CA) 51

Pre-op M-F TS, 5'9", 160, slight handicap (one arm). Enjoys leatherwork, thrift stores, flea markets, and swap meets. Would like to correspond with other TSs and others for friendship.

Calara Ann B. (HI-0955)

Barbara C. (CA-1560)

FORIEGN

MARY LOU H. (AL CAN) 50

Member: Tri Ess, ETVC, NWGA

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, Tri Ess Holiday, Shangri La, 'Be All'

SWM hetero TV, retired, 5'8", size 12, musician, loves concerts, drama,nature, museums, traveling. Stylish dresser with fine wardrobe. Will meet hetero TVs and understanding girls/ladies. I love correspondence and exchange of pictures. Will answer all.

Mary Lou H. (CAN-0440)

JOAN BRIDGMAN (ON CAN) 49

Member: Transition Support, Metamorphosis

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, 'Coming Together 87' M-F pre-op TS, 5'7", 180, early 40's. Enjoys theater, photography.

Ms Joan M. Bridgman, 25 Wood St., Apt 305, Toronto, ONT CAN M4Y 2P9

LAURA LYONS (QUE CAN) 49

Member: TAMs

"I've gone out on a limb but haven't fallen off the mountain yet. this 31 yr old 5'8", 140 lb TS still has her feet on the ground most of the time. As an honest, open & caring person I look for the same in others. Would like to meet other TSs and passable TVs for friendship or whatever positive things fate may have in store for us."

Laura Lyons, c/o TAMS, P.O. Box 1114, Sta. H, Montreal, Que CAN H3G 2N1

DANIELLE B. (AL CAN) 49

Pre-op TS, 5'6", 135, brown hair & eyes. Libra/Scorpio. Living full time as a woman. Interests: Art, theatre, people, fitness, intelligent conversation. "I would like to meet a real gentleman who knows how to treat a lady, and very passable TVs & TSs for friendship. Photo required for response."

Danielle B. (CAN-0840)

GINA S. (ENGLAND) 50

Member: TV-TS Support (London), Phoenix Society (RSA)

"I'm a young (30's) TV, enjoying life after divorce. I enjoy sports such as cycling, squash, golf, bridge, and especially feminine hobbies. Would like to establish friends as pen-pals." Gina S. (GB-1295)

SABRENA ANN SMITH (NS CAN) 50

Member: Canada TV/TS Contact Club, TAM

MWM TV, 6', 168. Enjoys writing, parapsychology, dressing, sailing, skiing, and traveling. "I'm interested in correspondence with other TV/TSs. Can travel and will answer all letters with photo."

Sabrina Ann Smith, P.O. Box 176, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia Canada B2Y 3Y3

CASSANDRA CURRY (ON CAN) 51

Pre-op M-F TS, 5'8", 29, 147, shy. Enjoys sailing, summer sports, shopping & dressing up. "I just came out recently and can almost pass in public but I need to learn more about makeup & dressing from more advance TVs & TSs. Please, sisters, teach me. Will answer all

Linda J. (CAN-0422)

Danielle Bluestone (CAN-0840)

Micheline J0hnson (CAN-0560)
Provincetowne, 1987 (Photo Credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Sabrena Ann Smith (CAN-1426)

letters."
Cassandra C. (CAN-1429)

MICHELINE JOHNSON (ON CAN) 48
Member: Transition Support, FACT Ottawa
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany P-town Outing, FLI Poconos Outing

Executive member FACT national, Editor Gender Review. "I'm a gentle sensitive person, open, interesting company, a non-smoker. I love life, hugging, hand holding, togetherness, dancing, dining by candlelight, good conversation, films, theatre, ballet, music, travel, walks, wild-life, waterfalls, sunsets, sitting on a rock on the beach under the summer stars with a special person. I'm a woman who is looking for someone who will live me on that basis, in a romantic caring relationship. There is plenty of reciprocal love in me for that person."

Micheline Johnson, P.O. Box 9155, Ottawa, ON CAN K1G 3T9

OLIVIA ("O") J. (QUE CAN) 50
Member: Tiffany Club

"O" is now 'out and proud', happily married to a supportive wife and with two children. "O" loves shopping en femme and participating in ordinary social functions with her straight friends. Would very much like to find a broad circle of TV/TS/CD friends in Eastern Canada and New England. She would like to form an active Montreal Sorority.

Olivia J. (CAN-1409)

MICHELLE D. (QUE CAN) 50
WM, interested in high heels, corsetry, B&D. Would like to meet others with same likings.
Michelle D. (CAN-1375)

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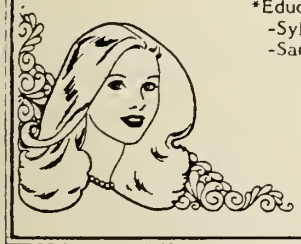

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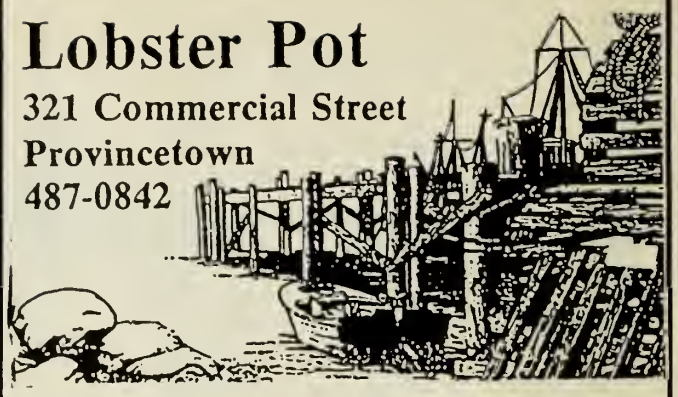

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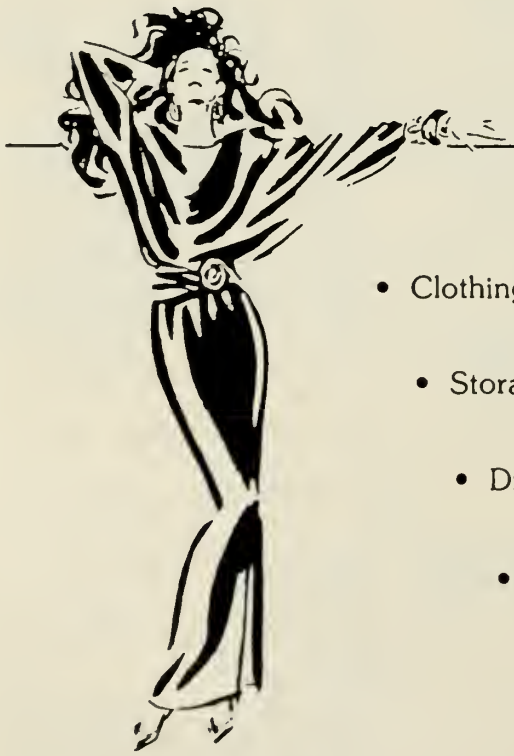

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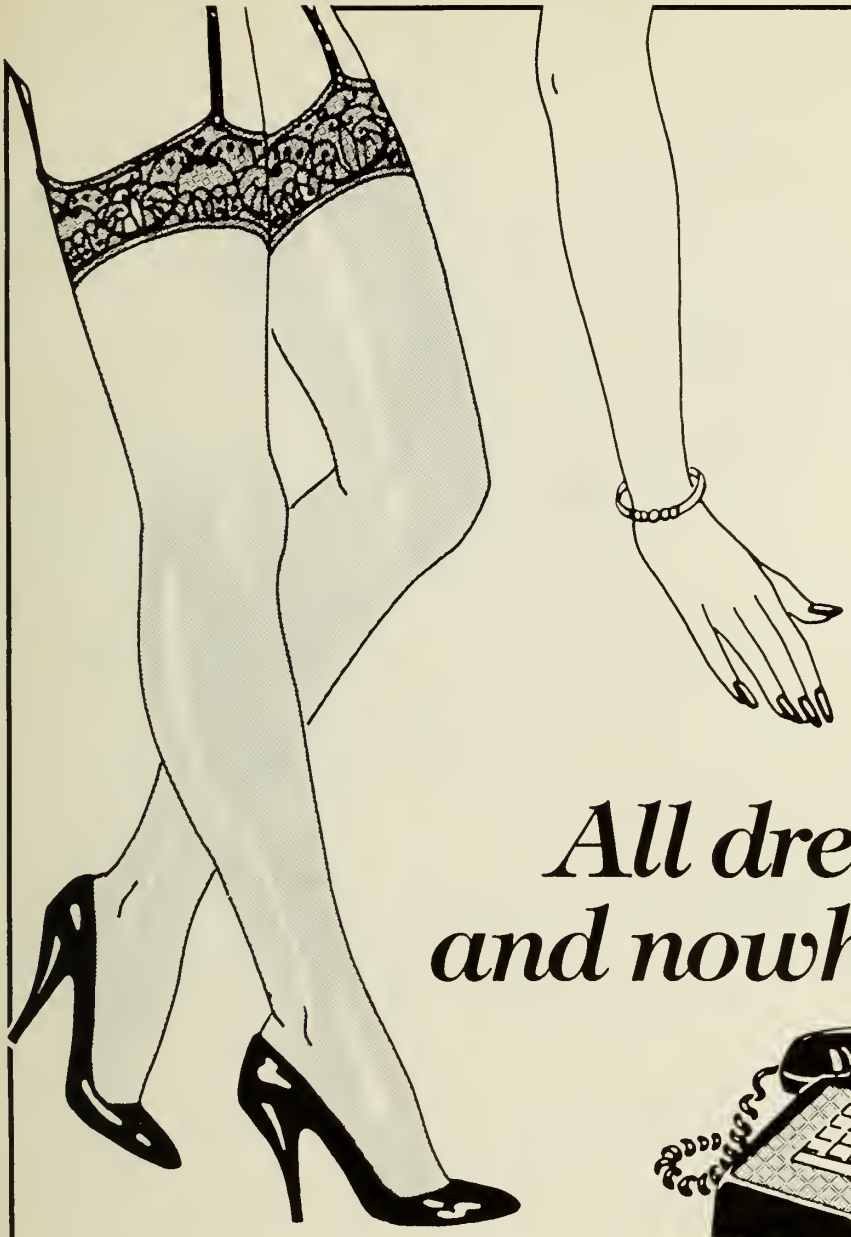

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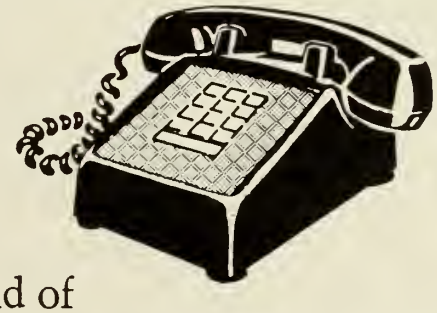

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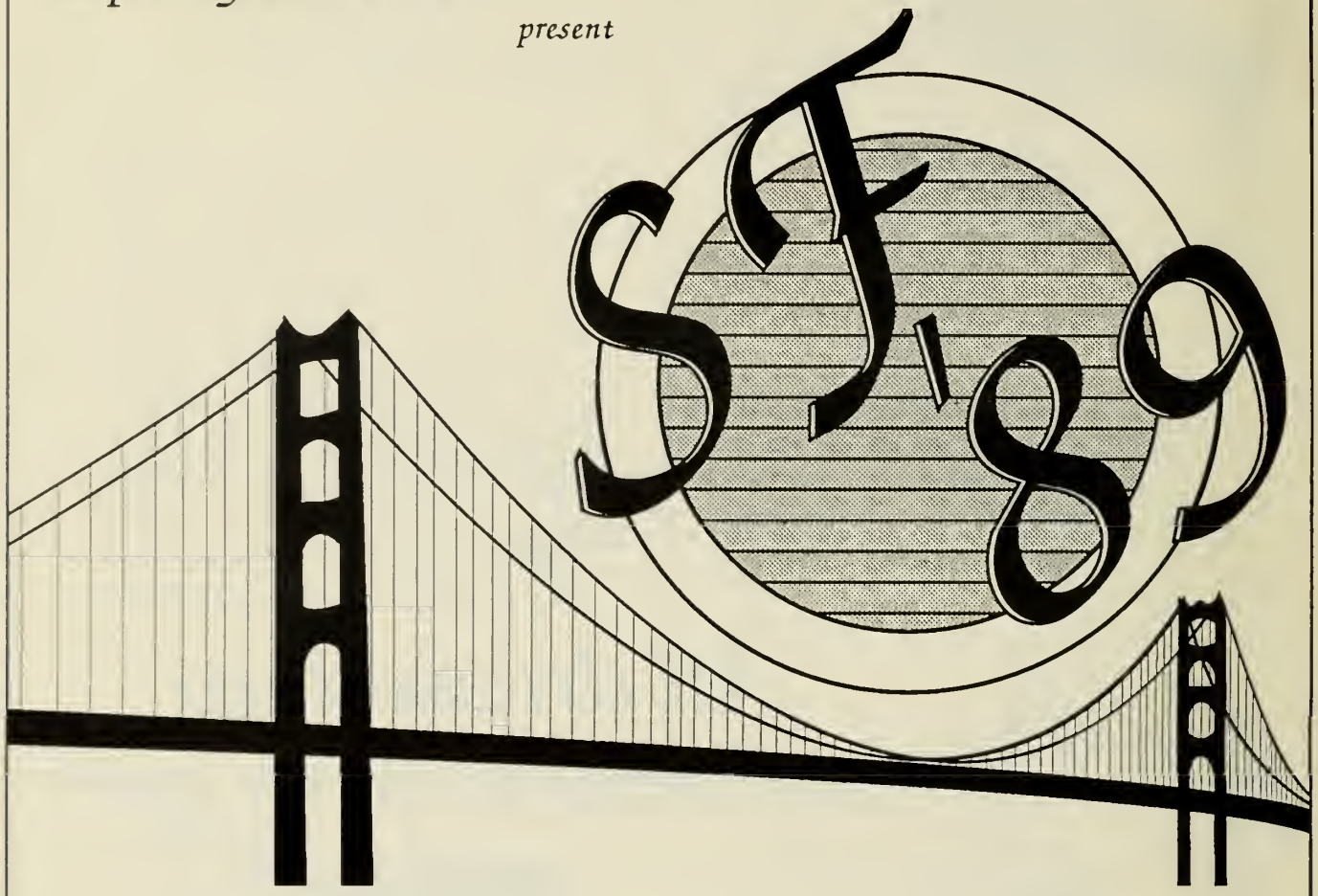

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The Tapestry, published by IFGE, is intended to be a source of up-to-date information, of support, and a communications medium and unifying factor for the Cross-dressing/Transsexual Community, those persons affected by, and those serving that Community.

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